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25 August 1982

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No. 2561

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PUBLIC WORKS OFFICIAL ANNOUNCES REVIEW OF YACYRETA PROJECT

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 20 Jul 82 p 18

[Article: "Total Review for Yacyreta"]

[Text] Yesterday, the minister of public works and services, Conrado Bauer, upon swearing into office the members of his cabinet, announced a review of the Yacyreta project, both in its technical aspects and in the selection of the bidding consultants and firms involved.

The official gave notice that these matters would be discussed with "our Paraguayan associates" at a forthcoming meeting, for which no date has yet been set.

With regard to the "review" of the project, after explaining that it had not yet been decided who will replace Gen Montiel Forzano, he noted that a study would be made of "technical variations in the elevation," for the purpose of cutting costs.

Included among the topics of analysis is the decision on whether or not to continue with the project and, in the first contingency, to determine the pertinent deadlines and "the manner in which" to continue executing the dam. Bauer summarized by saying: "Some day, we shall continue with Yacyreta."

This review would, in fact, mean furthering the delay that the project has undergone for 2 years, thereby raising its costs, which have been set (for the entire project) at \$12 billion. Hence, a new calling for bids (cancelling the previous one), for the awarding of the construction work, and the restructuring of the financial plan for the project, would not be precluded either.

Appointments

Bauer swore in Alieto Guadagni as secretary of energy; Esteban Guaia, as secretary of public works; Fulvio Fornasari, as undersecretary of hydroelectric and thermal energy; and Gaston Cossettini, as undersecretary of transportation. During the ceremony held at the Ministry of Public Works and Services (MOSP), Gen Angel Barbieri, undersecretary of communications, and Miguel Angel Bolivar, technical undersecretary and undersecretary of administrative coordination, were confirmed in office.

Bauer temporarily took over the position of head of the Secretariat of Public Services, because it is in the process of restructuring.

The minister of public works and services remarked that emphasis would be placed on achieving a sound financial system, cutting spending and a gradual improvement in the efficiency of the public services companies.

In commenting on rates, he said: "Those familiar with the inflation that has occurred since December 1981 will not fail to note the caution with which we are acting in the readjustments, complying (he said) with the announcements made that we would not upset the critical balance with which the process of putting the economy on a sound footing must be directed."

He later explained: "We are striving for a prompt determination of unresolved situations involving large projects, and for the structural arrangement of sectors, such as those of transportation, water resources and communication." He added: "We intend to give an incentive to the public works which can be self-financed, or which have the backing of national or international credit institutions."

2909

CSO: 3010/2063

POWER COMPANY SEES PROBLEMS IN RATE-INCREASE DENIAL

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] The Barbados Light and Power Company said yesterday that the decision to deny it any increase in electricity rates at all will have serious implications for both the company and the country.

The company outlined its position following the Public Utilities Board ruling last Thursday that the rate granted the company in May 1980 should remain in force until further notice.

The Power company said that revenues now being produced on the existing rates are insufficient to cover the cost of present operations. "The situation will become even more serious as loan repayments and interest soon become due on loans borrowed to purchase the new low speed diesel plant at Spring Garden Power station. Ironically, this plant which will use the lowest cost residual fuel available, will cause the fuel charge to go down because the fuel clause formula does not permit the company to use any of the fuel

cost savings to help repay the loans," the BL and P said.

The company said that as fuel purchases, basic employee wages, interest, dividends, and loan repayments are essential payments that must be made regularly, it will be necessary to cut back on service operations and reduce expenditure to an absolute minimum so as to meet these essential payments.

It added that it will be possible to complete a few small projects already in progress. These include work such as the underground cable laying job along Bay Street which will provide a secure alternative feed to the hospital, the Belle Pumping Station and cold storage facilities in Bridgetown in the event of storm damage or other trouble on the main feeder.

"It is regrettable that it may not be possible to continue with a number of new line construction and substation projects which are needed to supply new commercial and industrial customers.

"Engineering and survey work has already been done, long term loans with reasonable fixed interest rates have been negotiated, competitive bids have been received; in some cases contracts have been awarded and cancellation costs may be incurred.

"By taking such immediate steps the company will be able to cope and avoid defaulting on its existing loan repayments in the next few months. However, in the long term, the decision will have serious cost implications for consumers in Barbados and for the Barbados' economy.

"Contract cancellation and restart mobilisation, more expensive financing, engineering and hardware and the cost of frequent rate cases, which is all charged to the company, have long term cost implications which must inevitably be reimbursed either by the consumers who use the service or by the Government in the form of subsidies," the company added.

FINANCE EXPERT VIEWS ECONOMIC MEASURES AS INADEQUATE

La Paz HOY in Spanish 28 Jul 82 econ supp p 3

[Text] There is little prospect for a medium- or long-term solution to the Bolivian economic situation, because the measures that were adopted did not take into account the principal problem in this country, which led to the current deterioration: production.

This opinion is expressed in the study carried out by economist Rolando Morales, whose work "Crisis economica actual y sus posibles soluciones" [The Current Economic Crisis and Its Possible Solutions] contends that the diagnosis of the economic-financial situation made by the Torrelio administration's economic team "led to the adoption of erroneous measures that will keep inflation at its high levels."

The government's actions are aimed at curbing demand, "when the problem actually lies in the need to stimulate production," he states.

Morales indicates in this regard that the country will have to face "persistent inflation," since the lack of incentives for domestic production has depressed that factor "to such an extent that it means a significant drop in the public's disposable income."

In what amounts to a warning about the consequences of the economic model adopted last 22 March by the government of Celso Torrelio Villa and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he claims: "That strategy is oriented fundamentally toward the reduction of employment, a wage freeze, investment operations and, above all, the loss of buying power of our currency."

If production is the cause of the present economic situation, why doesn't the government implement an incentive program in this area, we wonder.

The economist answers: "The Government of the Armed Forces adopted economic measures that 'are linked to the standard diagnosis undertaken by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for all countries.'"

From the IMF's point of view, the recession is a secondary problem in the scheme of short-term economic policy. "Proof of this lies in the fact that recent official actions have no specific mechanisms to stimulate production," he asserts.

"The social cost of this experience is comparable to the error of the doctor who, instead of treating the injured arm, amputates the other arm," stresses Rolando Morales.

The economist expresses regret that the suggestions made by various sectors of the population to the effect that production should be encouraged in order to emerge from the crisis, have not been taken into consideration; on the contrary, the steps taken are radically different.

There are, then, two conflicting approaches to the economic crisis. One expresses the viewpoint of the majority of Bolivians, and the other reflects the internationalist perspective of the International Monetary Fund, which gives similar treatment to the problems of Peru, Colombia, Central America or any other part of Latin America: "It standardizes the problems and proposes equally standardized solutions," he adds.

The explanation for the IMF suggestions that we Bolivians reduce public spending if we want to counter the deterioration of our economy, is simply that the organization is totally unfamiliar with our circumstances.

Cut public spending when it has been on the decline for several years? Since 1978, public spending has fallen considerably, which has in turn led to a drop in production.

It should be understood that public spending is aimed at making new investments and increasing production. When this spending is reduced, the country is less able to provide incentives for production.

In this regard, Morales points out that "the decrease in the growth rate of production may be caused primarily by the decline in investments. It is recognized that this situation came about as a result of external strangulation. Negative growth rates in the GDP, however, without physical destruction of the productive apparatus (from war, natural disasters and other events), are due exclusively to major decreases in the utilization of installed capacity" (see Table 1).

But what about inflation? "Recent inflationary movement, which began more or less in 1978, basically derives from a declining growth rate in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The one exception is in 1980, when the unhampered growth of the money supply also had a major impact."

The economist goes on: "My position on the two aspects of the crisis, inflation and recession, is that the latter is the main cause of the former."

Morales termed the recession essentially a passing phenomenon, "due to factors that are exogenous in the strictest sense."

He also notes, however, that the political instability since the military coup of 17 July 1980, led by Gen Luis Garcia Meza, and subsequent events, all had a negative impact on the GDP growth rate.

Let us stop a moment to consider another of the IMF recommendations: to reduce the fiscal deficit. "The growth of the deficit is primarily due to the fact that fiscal revenues have fallen much faster than spending, precisely because of the slump in productivity."

Contrary to the IMF's recommendations that public spending and therefore the fiscal deficit be cut (what the government has been doing in practice since 1978, without any deflationary effect and at great social costs, is to maintain the same level of production), the government should take steps aimed at bolstering production, he contends.

Central Bank President

After repeated claims by the nation's economic authorities that the solution to our problems lies in the adoption of the suggestions made by the IMF evaluating missions, the proposal by the new president of the Central Bank of Bolivia, Miguel Fabbri, stands out.

The new official indicated in his inaugural speech that, as economist Rolando Morales says, the root of the present economic situation is inadequate treatment of production.

"The crisis in Bolivian production is the principal cause of the economic problems we are confronting," he stated.

He exhorted all authorities in important government posts to "reactivate the economic and productive apparatus of the nation." He also asserted that international credit institutions cannot solve our problems. "Internally, we must think of ways to overcome them."

Finally, it is clear that the IMF policy has not yielded the expected results, because it is not the appropriate policy for a country such as Bolivia, which has been in a production recession for several years, and whose currency's buying power falls short of essential needs.

Furthermore, no economic policy will yield results if the government does not define its objectives; if, instead of planning its program, it "faithfully follows the suggestions" of that international organization, without any regard for the damage done to the majority of the population.

Table 1

Growth Rates	1970-1977(*)	1978	1979	1980	1981
GDP Goods	5.30	.87	.53	-.04	-1.13
GDP	5.63	3.36	1.83	.61	-.61

(*) Annual Average

Source: Cuentas Nacionales No 3

8926

CSO: 3010/2086

IMF INITIAL LOAN TO KEEP NATION FROM TOTAL COLLAPSE

La Paz HOY in Spanish 28 Jul 82 econ supp p 2

[Text] The economic support known as "Stand By" granted the country by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a total of \$119 million, will not only partially relieve the balance of payments deficits, but will also play a key political role, in that it will open up new lines of credit on an international level.

This fact, pointed out by several government authorities, was also noted by several sectors of the population. They, along with the National Association of Banks, have stated that if the country does not sign the Stand By with the IMF, it will face "economic collapse."

Even former Minister of Planning and Coordination Adolfo Linares Arraya stated at the Debate Forum of the Confederation of Private Businessmen that signing the Stand By is an important step for obtaining new credits from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).

He also mentioned a second aspect of the situation, the renegotiation of Bolivia's foreign debt with commercial banks, especially U.S. banks, if economic support is forthcoming for Bolivia.

The information provided on that occasion indicates that by next 31 December the country will have to pay out \$600 million to service the foreign debt, out of the \$900 million it expects to take in from exports this year.

Former Finance Minister Lucio Paz Rivero said that the servicing of the foreign debt for 1982 will reach \$809 million. "It will be difficult to cover (these payments) with the resources from the export sector, which will total \$1,048,500,000 during the same period."

Because this is an important issue, we will turn once again to the statements made by Adolfo Linares concerning the \$600 million we must pay by the end of the year.

"The entire national economy between now and December will have to survive on just \$300 million." This situation will be much worse if loans cannot be

obtained from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to implement production recovery programs to shore up our economy.

The entire situation depends on the signing of the Stand By with the IMF, which demanded that a certain economic policy be adopted as a condition for providing the required support. Although that policy was put into effect 3 months ago, however, "the support is still being delayed."

If the signing of the loan agreement with that organization is politically important on an international level, on the domestic front it is also essential that a stand be taken on the economy.

In other words, the IMF Stand By alone will not solve the grave crisis this country faces. Also necessary are decisions on fiscal, financial and monetary policy that will strengthen the balance of payments and attain acceptable production levels in all sectors.

Among the working class, the failure to clearly define economic policy has given rise to strikes and protests by factory workers, miners and white-collar workers. In the words of leaders of the Bolivian Labor Federation, these protests "are justified, because they stem from the hunger that is plaguing all social classes as never before, particularly workers and peasants."

All this indicates that in the coming months the country's economic situation will worsen considerably. One parameter is the steady rise in the price of the dollar on the free market; from 80 Bolivian pesos 2 months ago, it has risen 25 points.

There are other factors that provide a glimpse of the crisis and the inflation that await us:

There is a serious lack of credibility concerning Bolivia's solvency on the part of commercial banks, as indicated by a high government official. The government has failed to adopt "coherent" measures to deal with the crisis in production, and international reserves have plummeted to "zero," according to the president of the Central Bank.

While the net balance of the Central Bank of Bolivia's reserves was \$241 million as of 31 December 1977, by 1978 that figure had fallen to \$3.1 million.

By 1981, the bank's reserves showed a deficit of \$245 million, while at present they are at "zero."

Since 1971 the country has sunk further and further into debt. From a total debt of \$500 million in 1971, the figure increased to \$2,441,600,000 by 1977. The foreign debt grew considerably during the government of Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez, as can be observed.

How much was the country paying to service the foreign debt? In 1964, the country spent more than \$5 million a year on amortization and interest.

After Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez left office, official statistics showed that the servicing of the foreign debt cost \$368 million a year (1978).

In 1981, amortization and interest payments totaled 64 percent of all exports of goods and services.

Thus, 64 percent of the foreign currency that exports earned for the country had to be sent abroad once again to pay off the foreign debt.

In 1982, as stated above, \$600 million will have to be paid out, according to the Planning Ministry, \$809 million according to the Finance Ministry. In any case, payments to creditors will represent 66 percent of all export earnings.

Another indication of the deterioration of the Bolivian economy is the deficit in the nation's general budget, which in 1969 totaled 234 million Bolivian pesos.

By 1972, according to Central Bank of Bolivia figures, there was a budget deficit of 738 million pesos. In 1977, the budget shortfall reached 1.664 billion pesos, and by the end of 1979 it had reached 3 billion pesos.

Official statistics also reveal that the deficit in the consolidated budget for 1981 was 19 billion pesos, while the deficit for 1982 is estimated at 31 billion pesos.

"There is no indication of any relief in sight for the economy in the next few months," said a high government official several days ago.

"We find the country unable to obtain credit abroad, given that it has contracted more obligations than it can pay, although some have been fulfilled."

The official recalled that over the next 10 years Bolivia will have to pay off the foreign debt it incurred during the seventies, with the consequent social and national sacrifice.

The situation is aggravated by external factors in the world economy, which led to a considerable drop in the international price of tin, he asserted.

In fact, last 11 June the price of tin was pegged at \$4.81 per fine pound, "one of the lowest prices of that last 7 years."

According to data compiled by the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (COMIBOL), this problem, along with the flotation of the dollar, has led to a daily loss of \$5 million in this country.

Naturally, revenues from mineral exports will fall during 1982, which will force authorities to ask where the amount required to service the foreign debt this year will come from.

Furthermore, the conflict in the South Atlantic between England and Argentina has had an impact on the Bolivian economy, according to official sources.

"There is skepticism that Argentina will be able to meet its commitments to our country in terms of payment for the gas it has purchased," they said.

In this regard, it was reported that the country has lost more than \$28.5 million that it would normally receive this year for the 5,982,059,764 cubic feet of gas that it has sold. Since the beginning of the war in the South Atlantic, Argentina has defaulted on its payments.

During this fiscal year, the sale of that hydrocarbon to our neighboring country will represent a total of more than \$366 million, it was reported.

In view of these figures, the socioeconomic plight of the vast majority of our population is clear. In addition to receiving an unfair wage, these people must now deal with the effects of unflagging inflation and speculation.

That is not the only source of frustration for the public, either. The workers have always borne the brunt of the sacrifice. The solution to the economic crisis lies in the adoption of a coherent policy, with serious and realistic projections, backed up by a democratic government.

8926

CSO: 3010/2086

BRIEFS

YPFB LOAN--Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB) is negotiating with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to receive loans totaling \$60 million for prospecting for hydrocarbons in various districts of the country. YPFB General Manager Otto Lopez Murillo stated that after the loans are finalized, the funds will be used to carry out projects that will yield profits for the enterprise. He explained, however, that in order to obtain the credit YPFB must have a profitability rate which, under the present circumstances, "it does not have." Lopez Murillo also reported that the Italian consulting firm Snan Progetti next 15 August will deliver its final study of the Santa Cruz-Sao Paulo gas pipeline. He added that the general manager of the Brazilian firm PETROBRAS and the principal authorities of YPFB will be present on that occasion. The study was to be delivered last 28 April, when the first draft was released. The event is supposed to take place in the city of Santa Cruz. [Text] [La Paz HOY in Spanish 28 Jul 82 p 6] 8926

UNEMPLOYMENT DATA--La Paz and Tarija had the highest unemployment rates in 1980; the national capital had a total of 7.54 percent and the Chapacan capital registered 7.12 percent, according to the National Statistics Institute (INE). The permanent study of households conducted by the Department of Samples and Surveys of the INE revealed the unemployment rate by city for the 1980 fiscal year. This labor indicator indicates that La Paz and Tarija had the highest percentage of jobless residents, followed by Santa Cruz (5.15 percent), Cochabamba (4.31 percent) and Trinidad (4.11 percent), all classified as moderate in terms of unemployment. Finally, the cities with the least unemployment were Sucre, Oruro and Potosi, with levels near 1.5 percent. The INE states that while unemployment is a well-established social problem, much more worthy of that description is underemployment, because of the people who are only partially employed in terms of time, income and/or ability. [Text] [La Paz HOY in Spanish 28 Jul 82 econ supp p 1] 8926

CSO: 3010/2086

BRIEFS

HYDRO-POWER STUDY--ST GEORGES, Grenada, Thursday (CANA)--A pre-feasibility study to evaluate the setting up of mini Hydro-Electric Power (HEP) stations in Grenada has revealed that there are some 15 possible locations, with a combined capacity of some 3.2 megawatts of power, the Government has announced. The energy unit in the Ministry of Planning and the study, carried out by Mr. Zdenex Suchy, a hydro-electric power expert from Czechslovakia, showed that five of the locations--Grand Etang, Birchgrove, Belvedere, Black Bay and St. Grancis and a total potential of 1.7 megawatts. The expert estimated the cost of constructing the five stations to be approximately EC\$11.5 million (EC\$1 equals 37 cents US). He recommended that guage stations be set up at the Grand Etang and Birchgrove rivers to measure feasibility flow rates for one year. Following this an eight-month feasibility study would be carried out, after which two HEP stations can be set up. The two stations would have an installed capacity of 900 kilowatts and would generate some 4.2 giga watts (GHWS) of power. The energy produced would be used, especially in the rain seasons, to reduce the consumption of imported energy, the ministry said. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 16 Jul 82 p 3]

CSO: 3025/387

CABINET ORDERS BOOST IN POWER TRANSMISSION SYSTEM

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 82 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] PROCEED with that \$128 million programme to strengthen the transmission system between Point Lisas and Port of Spain immediately.

That's the order which has gone to the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) from Cabinet.

According to a reliable source, Cabinet took the decision yesterday based on recommendations from a seven-man international team of technical and financial experts which recently visited Port of Spain.

The team came down at the invitation of Prime Minister George Chambers to probe the operations of the Commission which is under heavy criticism from consumers.

Cabinet, it is understood, had before it a comprehensive document prepared by officials of the Commission and the Public Utilities Ministry, the Minister of which is Senator John Eckstein.

The relevant recommendation from the probe team stated:

"A transmission strengthening programme should be initiated immediately by ordering material for four 132kv (132,0000) lines, since the weak transmission system between Pt. Lisas and Port-of-Spain regional systems has been the fundamental cause of recent power failures."

The source said that Government, recognising the urgency of the project would request the Commission to proceed with the minimum of delay.

Completion period is three years.

It was stressed that while this would not eradicate outages, the system, when on stream, would be known as a "reliable supply point."

The source further explained: "The plan is that electricity at rate of 132kv will be brought into the Barataria and Bamboo substations."

"At those points the power will be broken down by transformers into much lower voltages for distribution to consumers.

"Recently the Barataria substation was knocked out by a fire which threw the Commission's operations in North Trinidad into chaos. When this \$128 million project is completed in the event of the Port of Spain power plant going down, the Commission can simply switch over.

"This will not mean there would be a total eradication of outages but it will ensure that we will not have a system breakdown as what recently occurred."

Areas to benefit are those in the East/West Corridor--from Diego Martin to Sangre Grande.

The source added that Point Lisas had adequate bulk power but in the absence of a sophisticated transmission system it was not possible to distribute it.

TTEC will undertake the project itself but where necessary give work to contractors.

It was pointed out:

"Cabinet is viewing this matter with the urgency it deserves and, as such, the authority was given for TTEC to go ahead with the project in an expeditious manner."

Elaborating on the ever present possibility of outages in spite of the existence of "sophisticated systems," the source argued, "What is there to prevent a tree from falling on a transformer or a vehicle knocking down an electricity pole?"

CSO: 3025/388

UNION PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON IMPACT OF TEXACO POLICIES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Jul 82 p 7

[Text]

O I L F I E L D S
Workers Trade Union through President General George Weekes has informed Prime Minister George Chambers that over the past weeks the union held two top level meetings with Texaco Trinidad Inc. and the union has come to the conclusion that the picture in the oil industry is not good.

Mr Weekes sent a letter to the Prime Minister, dated July 14, in which he said that Texaco, in response to the present energy crisis, has already begun to implement certain decisions that will have a serious effect on employment levels in the industry and on revenues.

The OWTU has called for a meeting between the Inter-Ministerial Committee and the union to discuss matters pertaining to the oil industry.

MEETING

The union suggested the meeting be held at its headquarters, Paramount Building, San Fernando on a date and time mutually convenient to all parties.

Mr Weekes told the Prime Minister in his letter: "We

believe that the further exclusion of the OWTU and oilworkers from this particular process of decision making, more so in the energy and energy based industries, will only lead to disaster."

Mr Weekes said it is clear that the oil industry is at a cross road and has been for several years.

Indeed, we hope we do not take the wrong road because of delays in deciding on which course we should proceed. We learnt of the appointment of a small committee under the chairmanship of Dr Percy Bruce to look at the rationalisation of the refining industry in the country.

"We were never informed and therefore not invited to hold discussions with that committee. Now that the committee has reported to Cabinet, we learnt, through your recent announcement in Parliament, that an inter-ministerial team has been appointed to consider the Bruce committee's recommendations."

Mr Weekes also informed the Prime Minister that Texaco has reorganised its producing division and this spells redeployment, the closure of certain fields (e.g. Brighton) and eventual retrenchment.

"They have been studying the refinery and have plans to reorganise the maintenance activity. In

addition, they have worked out the implications in terms of plant closure and of further reductions in the already low throughput levels.

"The company speaks too of a need for further tax relief. Our branch representatives have a long list of examples of how Texaco's actions are affecting the nation and these have already been reported to the company.

"It is what begun to happen five years ago and about which we spoke and wrote to the government."

The Prime Minister was informed, for the records according to Mr Weekes of the Union's letter dated December 18, 1978 to the then Minister of Petroleum and mines where the union raised in an official way the

problems being faced by oil-workers and the nation as a result of multinational Texaco's attitude and actions which itself resulted from the changing international energy scene.

He was also informed of the union's suggestion for a commission of enquiry of enquiry to investigate Texaco's export of oil and products from Pointe a Pierre to South Africa, and of the suggested consultation between the OWTU and the government on the entire future of the oil industry in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr Weekes said that such a consultation never took place and instead, a commission of enquiry was set up to investigate Texaco.

CSO: 3025/388

BRIEFS

ACCELERATED OIL SEARCH--TEXACO Trinidad is intensifying its search for oil in Barrackpore by deep drilling below 10,000 feet and also by doing deep drilling in the Gulf of Paria, according to the company's newsletter. Efforts in Barrackpore are being directed towards prenatrating the intermediate Herrera sands (up to 8,000 feet) and Deep Herrera Sands (11,000 feet). Already three succesful wells have been drilled in the shallow Herrera sands and four others (two successful) in the intermediate depths. Plans have also been made for three deep wells, the first of which should be to 12,500 feet. This will require the use of a special drilling rig capable of going below 10,000 feet. Looking at possibilities offshore Texaco's Assistant Manager in the Producing Division said that a jack-up type rig named the Rowan Fort Worth has been contracted to do deep drilling in the Gulf of Paria up to 12,000 feet. This rig is already in Trinidad, and its first well will be called the "Iguana 1" After completion of its contract with Texaco the rig will be made available to other oil companies, including Trinmar. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Jul 82 p 4]

TRINTOC TURNAROUND--THE TRINIDAD and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) had an excess of current assets over current liabilities of \$11.9 million for the year 1980, a dramatic turnaround from the \$50,000 deficit of the previous year. According to the company's audited accounts which were recently laid in Parliament, long-term assets were \$94 million and current assets in 1980 totalled \$12 million. Current liabilities were just \$50,000. Total assets less current liabilities gave a figure of \$105 million, the same figure as the share capital. Trintoc is incorporated in Trinidad and Tobago and is wholly-owned by the Government of this country. The company also owns the entire issued share capital of a company of the same name incorporated in the United Kingdom, all of whose assets are held in Trinidad and Tobago. Formerly Shell Trinidad, the company was acquired in 1974 for \$92 million. The company incorporated in the United Kingdom retains a book value of \$92 million, and the nominal value of the 6 million shares is \$28 million. There are also investments in Trintoc Services Limited, with \$50,000 being the nominal and book value of the 50,000 shares. For Trintoc itself the authorised share capital at the end of 1980 was \$125 million, with the 25 million shares worth \$5 each. Previously the share capital was 20 million shares of \$5 each, and the increase was made in March 1980. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 82 p 4]

AMOCO PRODUCTION--AMOCO Trinidad contributed 91,000 barrels of oil per day and 202 million cubic feet of gas daily to the massive 1981 production of 794,000 barrels of oil and 3 billion cubic feet of gas per day of its parent company Standard Oil of the USA. Standard Oil's 1981 annual report stated that important new tax legislation and modified gas sales have enabled Amoco to authorise development of the Cassia gas field, which will deliver over 200 million cubic feet of gas per day. Net production from the three offshore fields averaged 91,000 barrels of crude and 202 million feet of gas. Exploratory drilling had been resumed in an area northeast of the Samaan fields. [Excerpt] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 82 p 4]

CSO: 3025/388

CHURCH CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO PROBE CHARGES OF CORRUPTION

Media Allegations

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Jul 82 p 3

[Text]

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, Saturday, (CANA) — The church in Antigua has suggested that the government here mount an official inquiry into press allegations of corruption in the local administration.

The Antigua Christian Council, which groups the major church denominations here, issued a statement to this effect yesterday, following allegations carried in the regional newspaper "Caribbean Contact" and the local opposition organ, "Outlet."

The statement said that in such cases normally the onus of proof rests on the accuser, but in instances where allegations have been levelled at public bodies, it was not unusual for government itself to institute a public enquiry to satisfy its citizens as to the truth or otherwise of the allegations.

The statement went on: "The constitution does provide the necessary machinery for subjecting government transactions and

the conduct of officials to rigorous scrutiny. One of these is the ombudsman provided for by section 66, and perhaps the time is ripe for pressing for full implementation of the provision of this section.

"Another constitutional provision is that for a Public Accounts Committee, whose function is to act as the watchdog of public expenditure. A government may feel itself sufficiently strong to ignore the findings of a Public Accounts Committee, but it does so to its peril."

The statement said that in addition to the constitution there was legal provision for the setting up of commissions of enquiry.

"In the final analysis, there is the option of appeal to the people, the ultimate option in democracy. We must not overlook of course the time lag involved in an appeal to the people. But neither must we underestimate the force of public opinion nor overlook the responsibility of all Antiguan and Barbudans in helping to formulate a corruption free society" the statement added.

Government Action

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 Jul 82 p 9

[Text]

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, Wednesday, (CANA) — The Antigua and Barbuda Government has bowed to

mounting pressure and announced moves to look into allegations of corruption within its ranks.

A statement from the office of Prime Minister Vere Bird last night said Cabinet had appointed a two member committee, comprising Attorney General Keith Forde and his predecessor Cosmos Phillips, who will be assisted where necessary by the Commissioner of Police, Wright George.

The statement said the committee would "consider allegations of corruption made in public media and at (political) meetings, with a view to initiating procedures as are indicated to have those allegations examined and determined publicly by appropriate and competent tribunals."

The regional church newspaper Caribbean Contact, the Antigua Christian Council and Outlet, organ of the tiny leftist Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) have all called for a probe of allegations of corruption in the Bird administration.

The ACLM at public meetings here has accused certain Government members of using public funds for personal use, among other things.

Caribbean Contact complained of a growing link between the Antigua-Barbuda government and mafia-type underworld figures and with racist South Africa.

The ACLM, in a statement, today rejected the composition of the committee and called for an independent public inquiry, headed by a respected West Indian jurist.

The ACLM said it wanted the probe to include such issues as the role in Antigua of the Space Research Corporation, a North American-based armaments company convicted in the U.S. of selling arms to racist South Africa.

BRIEFS

PLM POWER STRUGGLE--ST JOHNS, Sun., (Cana)--ANTIGUA and Barbuda's Opposition Leader, Robert Hall has accused elements within his Progressive Labour Movement (PLM) of trying to wrest control of the party from him by underhand means. He told a news conference it was his belief and the belief of the party, that there was always need for change, but that it must be done democratically, within the constraints of the PLM constitution and arrived at following the due process of meaningful discussion and negotiation. "We strongly disapprove and detest efforts to change by coup d'etat or hijack. The party has sufficient provision for change within the framework of the party branch, the Central Executive, the General Council and the party convention," he declared. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Jul 82 p 5]

CSO: 3025/389

FEDERAL PARTY LEADER ON POLITICAL FUTURE OF NATION

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 4 Jul 82 p 24

[Interview with Federal Party leader Francisco Manrique by Paulo Torre in Buenos Aires; date not given]

[Text] Buenos Aires--Federal Party leader Francisco Manrique told O GLOBO during an interview that the military regime should provide information about those who have disappeared and establish courts martial to investigate what really happened in the Malvinas Islands, so that Argentina can be made governable after the process of institutional regularization.

"The events of recent years have left a series of wounds, suspicions and resentments which must now be clarified. Otherwise, we will be losing time and returning to a past to which we do not want to return," Manrique, who has been mentioned as a possible presidential candidate in the elections planned for 1984, stated.

Although he believes that it is too soon to say whether he will run for the presidency or not, Manrique, who is 63, says he is certainly the politician who could rely on the most votes on a personal basis in Argentina today.

"Juan Peron and Ricardo Balbin left no heirs among the justicialists and the radicals. If the people of Argentina were to vote for candidates rather than for parties I would certainly win."

Manrique won popular prestige on the two occasions when he served as minister of social welfare (during the Roberto Levingston and Alejandro Lanusse governments). In the last election held in Argentina, in 1973, he was the big surprise, winning almost 2 million votes, and losing only to the two political leaders, Juan Peron and Ricardo Balbin.

A former naval officer--he went into the reserves in 1958 as a captain--and editor of the journal CORREIO DA SEMANA, Manrique is the electoral alternative for the middle class which opposes the return of the Peronists and radicals to power, observers believe.

[Question] Can you explain the reasons for your insistent appeals for a military court to judge the events in the Malvinas Islands and for clarification by

the government of the whereabouts of those who have disappeared in the "filthy war" between the armed forces and the guerrilla fighters?

[Answer] I want the country to be governable when the process of institutional regularization ends. The events of recent years have left a series of wounds, resentments and suspicions which must be clarified now so that Argentina will be governable in the future, and so that the traumas of the past will not persist. As to those who have disappeared, I must acknowledge that the forces of repression were forced in many cases to accept the subversives' rules of the game, and they departed from the law. There are many individuals whose whereabouts are not known to the regime, and I am simply urging a solution, so that the problem will not be a negative burden in the future.

Now concerning the war in the Malvinas Islands, it is also necessary to clarify the facts. I am amazed to see statements by recruits about disorganization, lack of logistic support, defective weapons, etc, in the newspapers every day. However honest they may be, these are isolated and shortsighted statements, and not the stuff of which history is written. Therefore I believe that the Military Court of Justice should be implemented, which calls for the establishment of courts martial. We know that there are many malicious people and we do not want the country to remain in the hands of the malicious.

[Question] However, some politicians view a return to the past as negative and believe that these matters should be forgotten. What is your view?

[Answer] These politicians want to institutionalize the country at all costs, but they will be the first to demand clarification in the future about those who have disappeared and about the war in the Malvinas Islands. Precisely for this reason, I told President Bignone that it is necessary to regularize our institutions indeed, but it is also necessary to create a country which can be governed. Otherwise, we will be losing time, the resentments will remain, and we will return to a past to which we do not want to return. In reality, these politicians are seeking to make a judgment of the regime in the electoral campaign. Individuals with evil intentions believe that the time for a "little Nuremberg trial" has come. But this would mean the destruction of Argentina. Mine is a positive attitude. I understand the unease which exists, even within the armed forces.

[Question] Will the Bignone government succeed in achieving its goal of re-democratizing Argentina?

[Answer] This is the weakest government the country has had in many years, because it was born of the break-up of the alliance among the three branches of the armed forces. The Bignone government originated with an army command decree. But it has the support of the parties for a concrete goal--the institutional regularization of the country. In brief, Bignone's strength depends on his honest achievement of the goal set, for otherwise he will fall.

[Question] Don't you believe that there is a need for civilian alternatives now and that the parties need time to reorganize themselves?

[Answer] I do not agree. The people are prepared to express themselves and an electoral mechanism so that they can do so must be created. The institutional solution for the republic should not depend on the party problem and structure.

[Question] Many analysts express the view that if there is no agreement reached between the civilians and the military, the vicious cycle in which civilian governments alternate with military regimes will continue in Argentina. Do you agree?

[Answer] This is one of those intellectual issues. In fact, agreement has already been reached and it is called the national constitution. There is no need to invest anything. The problem is that for many years totalitarian thinking, with a great penchant for paternalism and absolutism, has predominated in the country. The belief that the national ideal is for everyone to think the same has prevailed. In reality, the national ideal should be to allow differences. All of us may have different viewpoints, but we will continue as friends, or at least in mutual respect. This is what we must learn.

[Question] Will you be a candidate in 1984?

[Answer] It is still much too soon to think of this. But I am aware that I am the politician commanding the most votes in Argentina. I have no doubt about this. On the party level, however, I do not know if I would win all the votes I would have on a personal basis.

[Question] In your opinion, has there been a change in the electorate since the last elections in 1973, or do the Peronists and radicals continue to be in the majority?

[Answer] As the people say, when the dog dies, the madness ends. Juan Peron and Ricardo Balbin left no heirs. I believe that the Justicialist Party (Peronist) will continue to have the support of a great sector of the Argentine population, but this does not mean it represents a majority. We have three major forces in Argentina: the Peronists, the radicals and the federalists.

[Question] What does the Federal Party propose?

[Answer] Our formula calls for production with freedom. In our view, it is necessary to produce goods which, if correctly distributed, will provide man with well-being and freedom as well. The history of mankind has been the preparation of freedom for man and vice versa. Working from that, we believe that we are faced with a new kind of man, a rebel, which leads to the requirement that the government control rebellion and not crush it. Ever increasingly, democracy will be more turbulent because we are moving away from Victorian man, because the common man wants to be a protagonist, wants to participate in everything that happens. Therefore, we must review the political systems of representation and create a concept of community characterized by solidarity. We must develop the elements to provide man with dignity, so that the children of rich parents and those of poor parents will have equality of opportunity. In brief, we want freedom and an individual with dignity in a state which requires social solidarity.

[Question] How will history judge Gen Leopoldo Galtieri?

[Answer] I am not concerned with that. But note that prior to 2 April (the date of the occupation of the Malvinas Islands), the plan of the armed forces was to keep Galtieri in power until 1990. After the recovery of the islands, the military planned to hold a plebiscite so that the people could confirm the continuation of the general as president until 1990.

5157

CSO: 3001/204

COLUMNIST VIEWS POSSIBLE RETURN TO 1973 POLITICAL SCENARIO

Buenos Aires CONVICION in Spanish 15 Jul 82 p 8

[Article by Jorge Castro: "Could 1973 Be Repeated? Yes"]

[Text] There could be no more serious political mistake committed in Argentina today than to confuse the situation in 1972-73 with the present one. In history, repetitions are usually a comedy the first time, and a tragedy the second. In this case, Argentine might innovate again; and in that case, it would be a two-time tragedy, if there were an attempt to repeat what is unrepeatable: 1973.

What was 1973 like? It was three things: a Peronist movement which, up until that time, had kept the electoral route closed; a slightly politicized middle-class youth joining it en masse, and being used by the organized subversives and terrorists; and, finally, Armed Forces in retreat, demoralized by the disappointment of the so-called "Argentine Revolution" and Lanusse's policy.

Those were the bases for the tragedy that the country experienced. What is the situation now? The Armed Forces have just had a twofold disappointment: on the one hand, the realization that the military government, as such, regardless of intentions or even policies, cannot lead the country indefinitely, unless it is willing to face a very concrete, double risk: the increasing and widespread misgovernment of the society, a kind of vague but very extensive anarchy, wherein the social groups are increasingly tending toward direct action and actual disobedience with respect to the state's directives. Secondly, something which is perhaps even more serious for their future as an institution and, therefore, more keenly felt by them: their internal division, upon being forced to assume responsibility for the society's conflicts, without being able to resolve them. And, in the face of these two combined risks, their common sense advises them not to run them indefinitely; something which is praiseworthy.

In addition, these Armed Forces have just undergone a twofold military contingency, both aspects being of extreme importance and in reverse directions: an overwhelming victory against organized subversion and terrorism, and a similarly decisive defeat from Great Britain, a NATO power prepared for 21st century warfare. It has been known for a long time that the Armed Forces lack an individual ideology: They are not liberals or nationalists by calling, but rather their approach to reality is strictly institutional. It is their professional requirements that demarcate the reality for them, and allow them to learn it, and nothing else.

Then what results from the experience gained by the Argentine Armed Forces? The answer does not seem very complicated: on the one hand, their intention to remain in some way as a decisive military factor in the country; and, on the other, an intense concern for professional renewal, so as to more closely approach the 21st century, which will take most of their time. But occupation does not mean absence.

Peronism, for its part (an essential difference), has been a government for nearly 3 years, through the polls and the exercise of the constitutional rules. We are not attempting to state that experience cannot be repeated, because it can be repeated. The only thing that must be considered is that it is an experience which has been consummated, and no longer a possible future, the essence of which is unknown.

What results from these elements in motion, to which we must add a mass of youth who have been approached by different sociological hypotheses, but whose decisive trait, for the present, is its complete and hence dangerous depoliticization? What results is an essential difference from 1973: There is a decision by the Armed Forces to withdraw from the daily, concrete management of the government; but there is by no means a willingness to cease being a factor of authority present in the country's political life, both now and after 1984 (or a possibility thereof). This is something etched in the very nature of the matter, rather than in the changing desires of a few military commanders. And this fact has an eminently practical corollary: In addition to electoral support from the first minority, the next civilian government needs the definite, concrete backing of united Armed Forces, engaged essentially in their internal renewal and modernization, with a view toward the 21st century, which also have a definite political influence on certain areas of security, strategy and international policy.

In politics, there are fixed points, certain rocks which emerge with all their hardness from the sea of events. This is one of them.

2909

CSO: 3010/2063

HIGH-PRICED EQUIPMENT, OTHER ECONOMIC FACTORS ALARM FARMERS

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 20 Jul 82 p 18

[Article by Luis Domenianni: "Suspense and Uncertainty Mark the Pace of Agriculture Today"]

[Text] To date, a moderate optimism has prevailed in the agricultural and livestock sector, owing to price increases that have occurred recently on the national grain and cattle markets. Nevertheless, in the view of some leaders of the sector, this is only one swallow which, obviously, does not make summer; because from now on the producers will have to cope with hikes in the various production costs.

As was evident, the past few days served to bolster the prices of grain and livestock, stimulated (as we shall note later) by the erratic behavior of the dollar. However, there was also an obvious increase in the demand for machinery, and particularly farm tools, which clearly resulted in higher prices and the beginning of a depletion of the stocks. This did not mean that industry set forth on a production program because, after the years that have been experienced, the surviving manufacturer came to realize that caution is the sentiment that must prevail when he plans his factory's activity.

But the increase in the prices of machinery and farm tools was not the only thing. The rise in the dollar and the higher bidding for revenue also caused the prices of fertilizer and agrochemicals to register increases far exceeding any inflationary expectations.

These increases erased the smiles of the agricultural and livestock leaders. The cooperative members of CONINAGRO [Agricultural and Livestock Intercooperative Federation] in particular think that the improvement in relative prices will disappear during the next few weeks, if not sooner.

Orlando Gillardoni, head of the aforementioned entity, thinks that this time lag will be an unpleasant surprise for the producer, mainly the one producing wheat; because he planned with costs based on the old prices, he reckoned profits at the new prices and he will have to become indebted in order to provide care for the crops at the prices that are coming, without any security regarding the final price.

As for the livestock prices, their present stimulation results, in particular, from the expectations. It is very simple, inasmuch as exports account for only

15 percent of the meat market, and the price hike should be justified by an increase in consumption. Now then, the wage situation allows one to discern that what is happening is exactly the opposite. Hence, the purchases made by the meat-packing establishments, calling for constant price hikes, are justified only by the expectations of further devaluations, backed by the enormous gap that already exists between the commercial dollar and the financial dollar.

While the current situation is disturbing, for many agricultural and livestock union leaders the appeal for mass-scale planting made by the national authorities for the purpose of seeking solutions to the crisis in the balance of payments has not ceased to be less so.

That summons for patriotic planting is flawed by supplementary measures that make a genuine change in Argentine agriculture. Included in this viewpoint is the need to foster incentives for agrochemicals and fertilizer that will allow for an increase in the per hectare output. This type of effort should be made through tax exemptions for these products and, for example, a certain credit line for the producers to use, even if only by way of experiment, on small plots, and so that they may later draw their conclusions. So long as this is not done, Argentina will continue to engage in an underdeveloped agriculture.

Another point to be considered should be the expansion of the agricultural frontier, which could also be achieved through tax and credit management. Obviously, the goal must be to gain new land for livestock raising, and to use that left vacant, especially on the wet pampa, for agriculture.

But, according to the agricultural and livestock leaders, none of these essential reforms are being enacted. And so, they assume, the producers' effort to heed the government's appeal could entail disastrous results at the end of the season, through a greater indebtedness, without prices that would offset the rising costs.

The matter of the debt of the farms is another matter of concern to the sector. Although it is true that the substance of the debts has declined, this was due to the fact that many debt-ridden producers simply disappeared as producers and, by a lesser percentage, with the better current prices, the ones less in debt managed to liquidate the contra credit.

Nevertheless, liquidating a debt means not allocating funds for development, which is serious if one considers the fact that, during the past 4 years, no one invested in the rural areas, and the machinery and tools are now obsolete. Therefore, in order to deal with these deficits, the producers will have to contract debts in the financial system; but there, they meet with a great disadvantage: The credit to which they have access has no preferential rate, because agriculture cannot fix prices, owing to the fact that those very prices are made on the international markets. For this reason, in the case of CONINAGRO, its leaders have decided to exert pressure for special credit lines to be granted to cover this situation.

Finally, the state of the regional economies continues to be worrisome, particularly that of Chaco, Mendoza and Misiones. In the three areas, the productive structure, especially in the first two, is far from ideal for emerging from the

crisis. In both Chaco and Mendoza, where cotton and grape growing and wine making suffer from regular crises, only an essential change in the land-holding and in the destination of the products would change this state of affairs. As for Misiones, its two export products (tea and tung oil) need special refinancing that would enable the producers to extricate themselves from an enormous debt resulting from the blind exchange policy of recent years.

2909

CSO: 3010/2063

AUTO INDUSTRY REGISTERS MARKED DROP

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Jul 82 p 17

[Article: "Auto Production Continues Depressed"]

[Text] In June of this year, the national automotive industry experienced a relative gain in the level of production and sales, but it has remained clearly in arrears when compared with periods considered normal. The increase shown in vehicle manufactures was 46.7 percent over May, while sales exceeded those during that month by 22.3 percent.

According to the information provided by the Association of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (ADEFA), the 9,242 units manufactured in June represent a 33.3 percent drop with respect to the same month of 1981 (with 13,847 units produced). The negative situation in comparison with last year also marked sales; because the 12,224 units sold in June 1982 represented a 20.3 percent decline with respect to the same period of 1981 (which registered sales of 15,335 vehicles).

As for production, the ADEFA report also states that the figure for June is lower than the historical series (taken from 1966) for that month.

Taking the first 6 months of 1982 into consideration, the total number of units manufactured (amounting to 50,498) shows a 54.8 percent drop in comparison with the production for the first half of 1981 (which was 111,844 vehicles). When the sales for that interval are compared, in 1982 there was a 48.4 percent decline in comparison with 1981 (56,194 units, as contrasted with 108,825).

The difference that exists between the total sales for the half-year (which was 56,194) and the total units manufactured (50,498) reveals that the policy of the terminals is to liquidate their stocks. Insofar as the leading firms are concerned, those showing a greater decline in the 1982 half-year production in comparison with 1981 were Ford Motor and Volkswagen, followed by Renault and, finally, Sevel.

Prices

Yesterday, the head of ADEFA, Carlos Mandry, commented on the problem of the "high prices of the national auto producers," stating that, "they are due to the high tax that the companies must pay to the treasury, amounting to 41 percent of the cost of the vehicle."

Mandry claimed: "Such a percentage is not evident in any other part of the world." He then analyzed the possible repercussions of the rise in the dollar quotation, stressing that, "So long as the input of the suppliers is imported, it will raise the cost of the automobile." He also noted that, "The effort must be made by everyone, by the business owner and by the workers, who have been expending it for a considerable amount of time, and, in particular, by the government."

2909

CSO: 3010/2063

AUTO STOCKS UNABLE TO MEET CURRENT DEMAND

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 15 Jul 82 p 13

[Article by Marcelo Szechtman: "The Automotive Industry Awaits the Economic Future in Suspense"]

[Text] About a year ago, in these very pages, we called attention to the damaging consequences that the disappearance of a very large bloc of consumers of automobiles (small and medium-small) could bring for the Argentine automotive industry.

Unfortunately, today not only is the disappearance of the aforementioned bloc obvious, but also another, the one purchasing medium-sized cars, is threatening to vanish.

The national terminals, although awaiting the evolution of the new government's economic policy, began some time ago to set the guidelines, over the long term, that will bring about a production aimed at certain "elite" groups, in a purchasing position geared to the car prices.

The gradual disappearance of the small and medium-small models, combined with the difficult outlet for the medium-sized ones, is a reality that cannot be overlooked. The terminals, albeit at their own wish, have found themselves overflowing, as a result of the conditions on a market that is constantly exaggerating its reduction, if you will allow the paradox.

This situation, compounded by some concrete measures that the terminals are still keeping as a commercial secret, is clearer now, only a week after the announcement of the Dagnino-Cavallo Plan and its first results.

On Reforms and Transfers

A slight rise in auto sales had been in evidence during the last 2 weeks of June when, still under Minister Alemann, the rates began declining slowly.

As was to be expected, the recovery in sales continued (even reaching levels in excess of 20 percent over May), at the time that Cavallo's New Financial Reform appeared on the scene, while Alemann remained silent on the sidelines.

With the limit on interest rates, the fixed term ceased to be advantageous; and so, among others, the automobile market (for new and used cars) became the new attraction.

The same capital which had so unjustly made the financial sector wealthy, to the detriment of the productive sector (the true creator of wealth), began to be transferred toward durable consumer goods and real estate.

Regardless of increases (a result, among other factors, of the peso devaluation), autos and apartments started to sell.

The automotive terminals (the topic which concerns us now) that had regulated their production (cutting personnel and production lines) and geared their costs to the potential of their purchasers, began to find themselves invaded by franchise holders, who made violent scenes over merely another couple of units in their show windows.

And the fact is that, at present, the factories lack sufficient stocks to meet this surprising rise in demand. Another Argentine paradox: In the past, they did not know where to keep their finished units; now they have no units.

Currently, and after a cut of about 50 percent in their production capacity (more paradoxes: in this industry there is virtually no manufacturing idleness), the terminals are not equipped to supply the market.

A naive observer of the national economic situation might perhaps say: "The solution would entail taking on people and reactivating the abandoned manufacturing lines"; but that is too hasty a conclusion. Let us see why.

On Fears and Fixing

We noted previously that the terminals are awaiting the next steps to be taken by the new economic team. However, in the vicinity of the industry, one can also scent a slight odor of fear.

During the past few days, talk has begun (both outside and inside of the government) about a plan to fix prices and wages, arrived at between the state and the private sector.

These two factors (fear and fixing) typify the picture presented of the present and future of the national industry.

No one knows how the market will evolve, if this is nothing more than a fleeting burst of durable goods consumption, nor even how much longer it can last.

Will the labor laid off or suspended be taken on again if, perhaps, this will make it possible to meet the new requirements; and what about afterwards?

The political cost could be very high with new layoffs, and it may also be expensive to suddenly reactivate production only to cut it later on.

Meanwhile, the fixing has been temporarily limited by the economic authorities themselves at the end of the year.

The risk is the previous sudden price hike, that period, with the resultant peaking of inflation and, again, the high political cost that industry would have to pay, for its part, and the government, for its own.

But, despite this, there will eventually be agreement; in spite of certain differences in philosophical criteria and the various economic and financial situations being experienced by the automobile plants in Argentina.

There are some who, because of the "rewards" that entering into the fixing means receiving, are calling for the agreement (what they are actually doing is calling for the refinancing of their exhausting liabilities); and there are others who, not finding themselves vitally jeopardized by their debt, view the matter more objectively.

The Great Fixing

Now, we shall have to see what happens in the forthcoming talks of the sector's representatives affiliated with ADEFA [Association of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers] and the Secretariat of Industry. Obviously, the Secretariat of Commerce is also involved in the matter.

The main concern voiced by the manufacturers to Cueto Rua, undersecretary of commerce (who, surprisingly, was present at the ADEFA meeting with Gotheil to propose the price agreement to them) is the need for all the parties involved to enter (in some way) into the supposed plan for fixing.

Clearly, the main problem for the terminals is the increases that will be "passed on" to them by their suppliers; or, rather, their supplier: the state.

The iron and steel industries in the public sector have not yet transferred all their increments to the terminals, and are awaiting approval of a first 20 percent increase for them, resulting from the devaluation.

But there is more with which to be concerned. An option to reactivate the medium-small car bloc was an increase in the number of installments to be paid in the closed circle savings plans, which have been implemented in the sector for several years.

In normal times, those plans accounted for 30 percent of the terminals' sales. Lately, with the worsening of the recession, the plans covered 50 percent of the total sales.

But the desertion of subscribers to the savings plans has clearly increased. There is no money; the plans remain half paid, and the subscribers are left standing.

The aforementioned bill (by law, the installments may not exceed 50 at present) has been written, approved and...halted. The secretary of industry (not Gotheil, but who knows how many previous ones?) has not signed it.

This is our situation: when one is able, the other is unwilling; when one is willing, the other is not able.

Nevertheless, over and above the individuals, the automotive industry and the entire country are experiencing their most serious crisis. We remain waiting for suitable, proper solutions.

2909

CSO: 3010/2063

BRIEFS

SUBSOIL PLANS CANCELED--When the minister of public works and services was queried about the progress of the plan started by the previous administration to make the subsoil privately owned, he remarked: "That plan has been rejected." After deprecating the transfer of the subsoil to the private sector, Conrado Bauer said that, during his administration, "The efforts will be concentrated on mobilizing the energy sector which appears as the most dynamic one for producing rapidly developing economic activity, supplemented by the public sector and private activity and investment in the area of exploitation and processing of petroleum and gas." With regard to the mechanisms that would carry out this "mobilization" the official maintained that they would be provided by the greater exploitation of crude by private firms, and also by Government Oil Deposits. For this purpose, he admitted that there must be a change in the prices paid to contractors and also withholdings. Those points are included in the renegotiation of the oil contracts which began 2 years ago. [Text] [Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 20 Jul 82 p 18] 2909

CSO: 3010/2063

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PLANS TO UPGRADE FOUR URBAN AREAS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 21 Jul 82 p 1

[Text]

THE MINISTRY of Housing and National Insurance announced Tuesday that it has selected four areas in New Providence for urban upgrading and improvement over the next 12 to 18 months. The areas are:

(1) - Between Hay and Lewis Streets bounded by East Street on the east and Market Street on the west and Hay Street between Market Street and Baillou Hill Road.

(2) - McCullough from Collins Wall to East Street. Masons Addition from Father Marcian Cooper's Park to East Street, including side streets.

(3) Peter Street, Laird Street and Wellington Streets bounded by Market Street on the east and Baillou Hill Road on the west.

(4) - The area immediately south of Uriah McPhee School off Williams Lane in the Kemp Road Area.

A spokesman for Housing and National Insurance said the improvements would be carried out in conjunction with the Ministries of Works and Utilities; Youth, Sports & Community Affairs; and Health and Transport.

Included will be construction of public housing rental units, single family houses, apartment units or houses for senior citizens, upgrading and repairs to existing houses to eliminate outside toilets, removal of derelict vehicles, demolition of derelict, abandoned and vacant buildings, an intensive clean-up

campaign and the building of storm water drainage systems and the erection of street signs.

With a coordinated approach among the five Ministers, the spokesman said, it is anticipated "that substantial visible improvements will be made to the environment and living conditions of residents" of the four selected areas.

Any applications previously made for assistance outside these areas will continue to be processed and dealt with, the spokesman said. Other applications received henceforth from outside the areas will be considered only in exceptional circumstances, he added.

Subsequent to the experience gained from the present concentrated effort, additional areas in New Providence will be identified to continue the programme during the latter part of 1983.

Survey teams consisting of 20 Bahamian college and university students working with officers from the Social Services Department and the Grants Town Urban Improvement Project will be conducting interviews during the next four weeks in the four selected areas, beginning tomorrow (story this page). "The survey teams will assist in identifying the scope of work required and will inform residents how they may benefit from government loans to improve their properties," the spokesman said.

Each survey team will

comprise three persons who will wear identification badges and carry a letter of introduction from the Ministry of Housing and National Insurance. The interviewers will ask residents of the selected areas for information about the size of their families, number of employed persons in a household, conditions of their houses and sanitary facilities.

The survey team will also check yard conditions and the location of derelict buildings and abandoned vehicles. Tenants will be asked for names, telephone numbers and addresses of landlords so that efforts can be made to get landlords to improve their properties where necessary. Landlords will be acquainted with Government programmes and the availability of loan funds to improve their properties subject to certain conditions and stipulations.

The spokesman said the success of the survey will depend largely on the cooperation of residents in the selected areas. He issued an appeal on behalf of the Ministry of Housing and National Insurance to residents and the general public to assist the survey teams by providing accurate information

CSO: 3025/390

BATELCO, UNION REACH ACCORD, BUT UNION REMAINS CRITICAL

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 20 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

BATELCO and the Bahamas Communication and Public Officers Union will sign an overdue three-year "Super Two" contract on Thursday after Batelco agreed in talks Monday to change nine important paragraphs back to their original terms in the tentative new agreement.

Union president Charles Bethel told scores of members at an emergency meeting last night that Batelco management had changed 54 paragraphs in the contract that was ratified by the union on June 8.

Also at the meeting union members unanimously approved a resolution allowing four members to sign the \$10.5 million contract on behalf of the executives.

Mr Bethel told cheering members that the nine important paragraphs that union and Batelco agreed to revert back to their initial position included public holidays, complaints and grievances, maternity leave, union leave, vacation leave, job elimination and the cost of living.

The signing of the new contract on Thursday comes nine months after the expiration of the "Super One" \$9 million contract on October 1, 1981. The old contract was signed in 1978.

Last night's meeting was called to decide on industrial action to be taken on how to

deal with the changes Batelco made to the contract without first consulting the union.

The union had accused the Corporation of arbitrarily changing the agreement after it was ratified by union members and blamed Works and Utilities Minister A Loftus Roker, who has responsibilities for Batelco, for effecting the changes.

Mr Bethel said that Monday was a "fortunate" day for the union as Batelco general manager Robert Bartlett agreed changes were made to the contract.

But he said that the union succeeded in getting management of Batelco to agree on nine of the 54 disputed changes, including holidays and the cost of living.

He said that they agreed to recognize holidays proclaimed by the Government instead of the amendment by Batelco that holidays will be recognized "as they affect the terms and conditions of the work of employees."

On the cost of living clause, Mr. Bethel said that management agreed that if the index exceeds six percent from October, 1981, to March, 1982, (the first six months of the contract), management will pay the difference provided the index does not exceed nine percent.

He said that the meeting yesterday was long but the union finally got management to a "reasonable position."

"As a result we arrived at a position which we consider satisfactory," Mr Bethel said.

He told the members that at the end of this month, they will receive their basic increases in the various categories, plus an additional 5 percent increase.

He said that a first for the union was the negotiation for employees who have not got a merited increase since 1975.

He said that all the increases were effective from October 1, 1981.

The remainder of the money, he told union members, would be paid at the end of August and will include everything owed to the workers by Batelco.

He also had high praise for the union members who held a meeting on July 9 and voted to stop working until their contract was implemented.

He said that both the Government, whom he accused of deliberately holding up the contract in a "political decision," and management of Batelco panicked and management went on the airwaves to say that the gathering was not union-inspired.

He said that there was a psychological battle between the union and the Government and that the workers must decide whether to support the union or management.

Mr Bethel also said that he had sought permission for demonstrations to be held throughout the Bahamas at Freeport, Nicholls Town, Mathew Town, George Town, Governor's Harbour and Marsh Harbour.

He said that the effect of last night's meeting had a good impact on management who agreed to revert back to the original positions in the tentative agreement on the nine points the union considered fundamental to its survival.

Both Mr Bethel and vice president Keith Archer accused

the Government of trying to break up the union by deliberately holding up the contract and trying to turn members against the union.

Mr Bethel pointed out that Government went out and "mashed" up the Teachers Union president A Leonard Archer and was against any trade union leader who is outspoken.

He said that anything the Batelco union did, no matter how legal, was looked upon as a political decision by the Government, and he warned government to stop "messing around" with the union.

He said that the choice of four workers, Kenneth Seymour, Andrew Pennerman, Marge Rolle and Jackie Turnquest, to sign the contract was a message to management that they don't deserve to have the executives sitting around a table signing.

Mr Archer called the agreement yesterday a turning point and said he was totally convinced the Government and management of Batelco "was out to sink us to the bottom."

"As long as you have to work for Batelco, the union is your only salvation," Mr Archer told the members.

He said that he was proud of the things the union had been able to secure for its members and predicted that management would continue to try to destroy the union.

But he said that "principles are something" that cannot be bought and it had been the success of the union over the years. He also pointed out, for example, that the Hotel Union was currently in turmoil.

The union and Batelco arrived at a tentative agreement on Good Friday after months of protracted and stormy negotiations that led to the arrest of 43 union members (who appeared in court today).

The tentative agreement was ratified by union members on June 8, two days before the general election.

OPPOSITION LEADER DEMANDS ACTION ON RISING CRIME RATE

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 Jul 82 p 1

[Text]

OFFICIAL OPPOSITION leader Kendal Isaacs today called on the public to "join us in demanding that the Government do something to lift this terror and fear which hangs over thousands of Bahamian families."

Mr Isaacs, the newly-elected Member of Parliament for Delaporte, was referring to the rise in violent crimes in the Bahamas.

He noted that during the election campaign and months before, he and his colleagues continually warned Government about the rising rate of violent crime in the country.

"We repeatedly called on them to take emergency measures to deal with the crisis," Mr Isaacs said. "It was to no avail, however, as the Government continues to act as if we do not have a crisis on our hands or as if they expect the problem to go away all on its own. It has not gone away and it will not go away until adequate measures are taken to deal with it."

Rapes, he said, have continued "and the Government acts as if it is now just part of the everyday scene. The press, he said, many weeks ago, relegated reports of rape to less prominent sections of its publications."

"It was beginning to look as if the country was becoming shock-proof to this evil as it has continued to spread," Mr

Isaacs said. "Now we are once again shocked at an incident in which a gang of five terrorized a family, with three of the men rapping the woman while her husband and sons were held in separate rooms. Rape is always a foul and filthy crime."

"(It is) one of the very worst under our law. Gang rape in the manner reported is beyond description in its malice and viciousness."

It has been bad enough to have individual offenders terrorizing the public, Mr Isaacs said, "now it appears that the women of our country and their families are in danger of a new form of perversion in what is already a reprehensible crime."

The Free National Movement extended to the latest victims "our deepest sympathy for the pain they have suffered and will perhaps continue to suffer for many years."

"We call on the Government once again to take all legal and necessary measures to bring violent crime - particularly the crime of rape - under control," Mr Isaacs said. "We call on the public to join us in demanding that the Government do something to lift this terror and fear which hangs over thousands of Bahamian families."

Mr Isaacs vowed that the FNM will continue to agitate "until the Government takes its responsibilities seriously."

BRIEFS

UNION LEADERSHIP CHANGES--FRANK CARTER was ousted as president of the Airport, Airline and Allied Workers Union Friday, and replaced by newcomer Clarence Rolle, of Nassau Flight Services. Earl Bostwick, also of NFS, is the union's new vice president. He defeated Clifton Pinder of Freeport, Former vice president, Basil Taylor, did not seek re-election. Neither Mr Rolle, nor Mr Carter could be contacted for comment today, However, Mr Taylor, although he was surprised at Mr Carter's defeat, thought Mr Carter's "time had come." "Frankly I feel that the membership was somehow lacking strong leadership...one with whom they could identify," Mr Taylor said. "He was not able to portray to the membership, or to convince them that he was strong enough in his dealings with the various companies we have to deal with." "Another factor contributing to Mr Carter's defeat, is that as yet, we have not received any benefits that were due and that were made contractual in February," he said. [Lyn Sweeting' [Excerpt] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Jul 82 p 1]

POLICE ASSIGNMENTS--SEVERAL TOP police officers will change jobs next month when senior Assistant Commissioner of Police is now Stanley Moir retires. Mr Moir is now on pre-retirement leave. Assistant Commissioner of Police Keith Mason, who was transferred from the Police College to take over the New Provident District on the retirement of ACP Paul Thompson in 1980, will now go to Freeport to head the Royal Bahamas Police Force in Grand Bahama. Chief Superintendent Alonzo Butler, who heads the Grand Bahama Police Force, is to return to Nassau to take over Mr Moir's office in the Royal Bahamas Police Force's East Street headquarters. It is understood that Chief Superintendent Grafton Ifill will take over Mr Mason's position as Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of New Providence. Chief Superintendent Ormond Briggs will be transferred from Freeport to take over Mr Ifill's post as head of the CI [Text] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 20 Jul 82 p 1]

CSO: 3025/390

UNIONS INSIST ON WAGE DEMANDS; INDUSTRIAL ACTION TAKEN

NUPW, BSTU Rejections

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 20 Jul 82 p 1

[Text]

Two other trade unions in Barbados have rejected Government's salary offer as negotiations for increased pay for public workers continue.

The latest rejections have come from the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW), and the Barbados Secondary Teachers Union (BSTU).

NUPW's rejection was made following talks held yesterday between that body and Government's Chief Establishment Officer (CEO). The rejection by the union has also resulted in the union calling a strike by some of its members.

The BSTU's turning down of Government's offer was made last Friday at a meeting also held with CEO.

An official of the BSTU although refusing to say what the offers were, said it was the third by Government, with the previous being an \$87 increase across the board.

The official pointed out that the BSTU had been assured that another meeting will be held shortly to continue the talks for a new wage settlement which is to be retroactive from April this year.

Only on Friday the Barbados Workers Union (BWU) said it had made it clear to the CEO that Government's offer for a range of salaries as wide as that in the Public Service, was unscientific, and did not meet the variety of categories.

NUPW Position

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 20 Jul 82 p 1

[Text]

Civil servants in Barbados will be taking industrial action today as their bargaining body, the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) reinforces its point to Government that it wants outstanding matters settled.

Workers in a number of government departments will be staying off the jobs today to back their union's

call for industrial action.

Departments expected to be affected will be Welfare, Registry, Supreme Court, Rates and Taxes, Parcel Post, Immigration (headquarters, and Grantley Adams International Airport), Psychiatric Hospital, and the District 'A' Magistrate Court.

NUPW general secretary Mr. Joseph Goddard said yesterday there was the possibility that some mem-

bers of staff at these departments were likely to turn up, but they would mainly be temporary officers.

Mr. Goddard said also that he had held meetings personally with the workers of the various departments last week informing them of the union's position on the issues and the need for action.

It is the second time in two successive weeks that government employees will be taking industrial action as the NUPW steps up its efforts to reach an accord in matters concerning negotiations for increased pay for its members, lay-offs within the public sector, and to have government scrap its emergency powers legislation.

In an address following last Wednesday's march Mr. Goddard had told workers that unless some progress was made in the matters further action would be taken. He had also promised that the days of marching were over.

"We cannot continue to be marching. The time for marching is finished," the NUPW official had said.

Today's planned industrial action followed the breakdown of another round of salaries negotiations held yesterday.

The NUPW has rejected Government's latest offer of 19 per cent at the bottom of the salary scale and three per cent for workers at the top.

The union said new increases put forward by Government represented a \$22 hike across the board which the NUPW has described as unacceptable.

The union has also rejected proposals based on the severance payment formula for ending the dispute with regards workers who have been dismissed from the public service.

Mr. Goddard said it took no time to dismiss the workers, and there should be no delay in having them reinstated.

He added he was also hoping to hear from the Chief Personnel Officer also on the question of reinstatement for the dismissed workers some of whom had done as much as 15 years in the public service.

The NUPW's executive will be meeting tomorrow to review the action taken so far and plan further strategy.

'Success' of Strike

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] The 7,000 strong National Union of Public Workers (NUPW), has reported satisfaction with yesterday's industrial action by union members in seven Government departments.

And this morning the Executive of the NUPW will be meeting at union headquarters, Dalkeith, St. Michael, to review action taken so far, and planned for future strategy.

According to reports the union said the response was "as good as it had anticipated," noting that in one instance as few as two workers turned up for duty.

Areas affected by strike yesterday were the Welfare Department, the Psychiatric Hospital, Parcel Post the

Rates and Taxes Division, and the Registry.

Also affected was business at the Magistrate Court's offices in Bridgetown; but cases scheduled for hearing in the Traffic Court before Chief Magistrate Mr. Frank King, went on.

Reports from the Airport had said that only about four out of 14 employees in the Immigration Department turned up for work yesterday morning.

However, the counters for incoming passengers were well manned in the afternoon as the flow of incoming passengers was kept on the move.

For departing passengers the situation was not the same

with only one of two counters being manned and this created a long queue of passengers.

Yesterday's action by NUPW members followed similar industrial protests last week when more than 500 workers staged a march through Bridgetown and then onto union headquarters.

Topping the NUPW's list of grievances is a wage dispute with the Government.

The union has rejected the Government's offer of a \$22 a week across the board hike for its members and is standing firmly behind its demand for a 25 per cent increase for workers at the top of the salary scale and 39.4 per cent for those at the bottom.

UNION REACTS NEGATIVELY TO ADAMS' SUGAR BAIL-OUT PLAN

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Jul 82 p 1

[Text]

The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) has called for a revitalisation of the sugar industry, and said Government's proposal to aid the industry is a stop gap and is not looking at the sector in light of what has taken place at the close of the 20th Century.

It was the union's first reaction since Prime Minister Tom Adams announced last Tuesday that Government will be making available a Bds\$20 million soft loan to the Barbados Sugar Factories Limited, the company which owns all sugar factories here.

Mr. Adams also announced that a support price for sugar will be offered starting with the current year.

BWU General Secretary Mr. Frank Walcott yesterday wanted to know what the support price was going to support, and what was the meaning of the soft loan.

Mr. Walcott said that the BWU represents workers and also wanted to know what did it "mean for us."

He said yesterday that the BWU was satisfied that in 1982 the proposal of Mr. Adams is

going to reinforce the existing position because the industry remained under the same ownership.

He stated also that the BWU was not satisfied that the millions of dollars that have been taken out of the levy funds and placed at the disposal of the industry have in any way democratised the industry.

"The proposal which is now suggested is another stop gap and is not looking at the sugar industry in the light of what has taken place at the close of the 20th Century," Mr. Walcott said.

Mr. Walcott said too it was time Government understood that the workers of the country have a stake in the economy and they were not here to accept the continuation of economic policies that were rooted in 17th and 18th Century philosophies.

According to Mr. Walcott: "It is evident that there must be a complete revitalisation of the sugar industry and it is time that all of those who are associated with what is good and sensible understood that it

is a necessary change that must be affected to reflect the reality of changed social and economic climate.

The union, Mr. Walcott said, was at pains to point out at the beginning that it was optimistic to expect, in the given circumstances, to look forward to 150 000 tonnes of sugar as projected by a team of Australian sugar cane consultants.

He accused Government of swallowing these views and proceeded to dismantle the accumulated funds in the industry without appropriate consultation with the only organised labour force in the country.

"It is unthinkable that a government would have proceeded to conduct these sweeping changes without participation from so important a body," Mr. Walcott said.

He added that what was tragic was to find that now there is complete failure all attempts are made now to look around for sources to blame and, as usual, the workers and the trade union have been identified as the culprits.

BRIEFS

BWU ON ANTI-UNIONISM--The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) says it supports sentiments expressed by regional trade unionist that there are anti-union trends by some Caribbean Governments. The sentiments were expressed by Secretary-Treasurer of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) Mr. Burns Bonadie, and the BWU said it was not an empty statement "but one which can be supported by evidence." The union also criticised a statement made in another section of the press about Mr. Bonadie's residing in Barbados, and said the comment show that some writers were not sincere about Federation. The BWU pointed out that Mr. Bonadie is the Secretary-General of a Caribbean organisation and he had as much right to be in Barbados as Mr. William Demas, CHB, President of the Caribbean Development Bank. "We object to these local Senator McCarthys conducting any witch hunting against a Caribbean citizen for expressing a democratic view about a situation he is professionally qualified to speak about," the union pointed out. It went on: "We are diametrically opposed to any suggestion that the trade union movement has no right to express a political opinion as if political opinions are the sacred rights of politicians." The BWU said it was not selecting candidates for deification, "so we expect anything we say or do to be criticised, but we hope we have the right to criticise any of the issues which arise in our community whether they are political or not." [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Jul 82 p 1]

CSO: 3025/391

OPPOSITION PLP CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION OF GOVERNMENT DEALINGS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 23 Jul 82 p 2

[Text]

An independent commission of inquiry must investigate the "curious and troubling" dealings between Government and timesharing developers York-Hannover, the Opposition Progressive Labour Party challenged last night.

In a highly critical statement, the P.L.P. lashed Government for selling Bermuda a "bogus bill of goods" and demanded a probe over Government ministers' conduct in negotiations with the Canadian-based firm.

The demand for the inquiry was issued in a joint statement released by Mr. Stanley Morton, Shadow Minister of Tourism, and Mr. Walter Brangman, Shadow Minister of Works.

It follows publication of the "Marshall Memo" in a Royal Gazette probe into timesharing last week.

The newspaper report and the memo written by former

Works Minister Mr. Ralph Marshall raise serious questions over the St. George's timesharing project, the statement said.

"As The Royal Gazette reports, the P.L.P. has long complained that it has been unable to get sufficient information on the St. George's scheme and the Marshall Memo provides a little more insight into the peculiarities of the negotiations.

"However the P.L.P. is convinced that an independent commission of inquiry must be convened to investigate the role of Government in these curious and troubling negotiations and expose to public light the complete story."

The statement lists concerns raised in the Marshall memo over the extension of the timesharing lease from 30 to 55 years.

"This country has been committed to a dubious marketing scheme embrac-

ing the next 55 years that even one of the Cabinet Ministers most involved in negotiations has now disowned," it said.

"It is increasingly apparent that Government sold a bogus bill of goods to both Parliament and the people of Bermuda, particularly with its ill-founded insistence that a 55-year lease had to be honoured."

The statement continued: "The silence of the Cabinet and the Minister of Tourism Mr. C.V. "Jim" Woolridge on specific points raised in the Marshall Memo revelations, is grounds for even more concern — as is the difficulty of The Royal Gazette in contacting York-Hannover officials for comment."

It is becoming increasingly apparent that a "careless" approach was adopted by Government which could ultimately cause St. George's to lose business, the statement charges.

HOUSING SHORTAGE DESCRIBED AS CAUSE OF RIOTING

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 22 Jul 82 p 5

[Text]

Opposition Senator David Allen last night delivered a blistering attack on Government's housing policies which he claimed in a speech at the Sandy's Lions Club meeting were to blame for the riots which have dotted the Island's recent history.

Lack of housing led to social unrest which ultimately led to riots.

But Government did not see the housing problem in that light, he said.

"Sometimes one gets the uncomfortable feeling that some in both Government and business circles are content to live from crisis to crisis, from social upheaval to social upheaval, resigned to the fact that while there may be an explosion every five years or so, the rest of the time we can just go about our business without taking long-term, in-depth action.

His chief accusations were levelled at 'Government's housing policies — long a sore subject among those in the Opposition's ranks. Those policies, he claimed, were "a direct attack" on the family unit.

Instead of providing low-cost housing for rent, Government was building houses for sale, claiming this would ease Bermuda's crisis housing shortage.

Promises to subsidise interest costs for prospective home-owners would only help those in the upper middle income bracket, charged Senator Allen — not those who really needed help.

Government's claims that the influx of Government houses for sale on the market would free housing for rent, and that the housing shortage had been caused by young single people leaving family homes, fell completely apart, said Senator Allen.

The senator's speech, however, was not an all-out attack without offering any answers to the crisis.

Among his suggestions were: • customs duty rebates on building materials to developers who were committed to building housing for rent to lower income groups; • land and employment tax reductions for the same developers; • Government provision of low-cost housing for rent; and • careful growth of the exempt company industry instead of the wild expansion of offshore companies which was the case during the 1970s.

BRIEFS

OPPOSITION MERGER--ROSEAU, Fri., (Cana)--TWO of Dominica's opposition political parties, each led by an ex-premier, have announced plans to merge. A joint statement from Oliver Seraphin's Democratic Labour Party (DEMLAB) and Patrick John's Dominica Labour Party (DLP) said they had decided on the unification because there was "need for a strong political opposition" in the country. The statement said: "the executives of both parties, by overwhelming demand of the working class, have met to unify the labour movement and further to mobilise all their resources and forces in building one powerful body, [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Jul 82 p 5]

ENVOY TO FRG--ROSEAU, Dominica, Friday, (CANA)--Dominica said today that its High Commissioner to London, Arden Shillingford, had been appointed now resident ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Jul 82 p 3]

CSO: 3025/392

REPORTAGE ON REACTIONS TO NEW ASSEMBLY PROPOSAL

RPR Reaction

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 9 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] A purely electioneering measure that hides the true intentions of the Left toward the DOM [overseas departments of France]. Those were the first comments of the French Guiana branch of the RPR [Rally for the Republic] as expressed by its president, Paulin Brune, after the decision of the government to establish unicameral assemblies in the overseas departments.

According to Paulin Brune, "since its defeat at the time of the cantonal elections the Left in the overseas departments has never stopped calling for the establishment of unicameral assemblies in order to provide itself with a new opportunity. The government has hastened to satisfy it."

This is a measure the RPR leader wanted to place in context: "Faced with popular discontent, which has not stopped growing, the government is taking a more radical position. The first sign of this hardening of attitude was the proposed new statute for the city of Paris. The second sign was the proposal for unicameral assemblies in the overseas departments."

For the RPR, this question of a bicameral or unicameral assembly is a false problem, an institutional question. The real question raised by the RPR is the means the assembly would have to permit the development of French Guiana.

Elsewhere, the RPR has announced that it would hold a meeting on Monday [13 July] to declare and further develop its position.

Statement by Paulin Brune

What should we think of the situation?

First, this is a purely electioneering measure that aims at giving the friends of President Mitterrand a further chance to achieve power, particularly in view of the electoral frauds that have become an institution in the overseas departments.

Secondly, it is a measure that hides the true intentions of the Left toward the overseas departments. Emmanuelli has stated that the chief of state was personally in favor of the departmental system. We then ask ourselves why the Left has exerted so much effort to fight the departmental system and to say that it was at the root of all our problems? This has paralyzed the political debate for nearly 25 years.

In fact, we are certain that the true intentions of the government have been disguised in order to avoid frightening the Guianan people, who support the departmental system, as they demonstrated last March.

Finally, we might have expected a series of measures from the government suitable for stimulating the Guianan economy and particularly some additional resources given to our elected representatives. Instead, there is a real plot that has been fomented against the system of universal suffrage, which had already had the chance to express itself in the elections of March 1982.

Faced with the depressing aspect of the economic situation, the government has not been without a sense of humor. It is attached to the departmental system, but it is prepared to assassinate it to please its friends. Decidedly, there comes to our minds the celebrated phrase: "I killed him because I loved him too much."

The RPR in Guiana goes beyond its members and sympathizers to call on all Guianan people to mobilize to force the Socialist government, as in the case of the plot involving the mayor's office in Paris directed against Jacques Chirac, to return to attitudes more respectful of the will of the people of the overseas departments to maintain the status quo.

PSG Position

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 12 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] A press conference was held Saturday morning [11 July] at the City Hall annex by the PSG [Guianan Socialist Party]. In the absence of Castor, Tarcy and Othily, presently in metropolitan France, Jean Catayee, Antoine Karam, Etienne-Yves Barrat and Andre Lecante, who recently was accepted back into the PSG, spoke at this meeting.

On the agenda was the decision by the government to establish unicameral assemblies in the overseas departments. The PSG supports this proposal in principle while waiting for the preparations of a draft bill. Previously the leaders of the party presented the new party structures and announced the regular publication of DEBOUT GUYANE.

Opening the session, the secretary general, Jean Catayee, had occasion to discuss the "new face" that the PSG plans to give itself. He said: "The assumption of responsibilities for the country by the Guianan people has been our objective for 26 years. Today we are giving ourselves the means adapted to reality to attain this goal."

Three series of measures were approved by PSG bodies: strengthening the circulation of socialist, anticolonialist and anti-imperialist ideas; providing party members with training and information; and urging workers to organize themselves in different associations to defend their rights. For the PSG, however, the first of the steps to be taken was the internal restructuring of the party.

Party Sections in Residential Quarters

New party structures should be approved as soon as possible. In principle, this should be done at the next PSG congress in the fall.

Party sections at three levels--residential areas, cantons and communes--have been established in Cayenne. Outside the major town, there should be a party section for each inhabited area.

Antoine Karam, who presented these measures, declared: "The leading organ of the party henceforth will no longer be the directing committee but the central committee, composed of secretaries of party sections, the present directing committee, elected representatives of the party (members of Parliament, members of the departmental council, mayors) and the presidents of the four commissions that have emerged from the party bureau for studies and reflection."

A political bureau--led by the first secretary, Rene Clairveaux--would constitute the executive branch. "Its fundamental principle will be the collegial nature of its membership. The responsibilities it will assume will be divided among its different members. Finally, the administrative services will also be recognized, and their direction will be handed over to Jean Catayee. In parallel fashion, and to strengthen the impact of these arrangements, DEBOUT GUYANE will reappear regularly. "There are no political parties in a country without a propaganda organ. DEBOUT GUYANE is available for that purpose," Etienne-Yves Barrat emphasized.

This weekly publication for the moment is issued in an eight-page edition with a circulation of 1,000. Its financial revenue comes from some advertising and its obligatory purchase by party members--at a cost of Fr 3.

On the front page of the second issue: an open letter from Jacques Lony to the chairman of the departmental council; a statement by Rene Clairveaux, party first secretary; three "papers" on SOFIDEG and SIGUY [expansion unknown] and on the 2-week program in support of the public schools; and sports. Regarding the radio station "Guyane FM," it will begin transmitting this summer.

Support for the Unicameral Assembly

Dr Andre Lecante gave the position of the PSG regarding the recent decision of the government. After having read the exact text of the announcement by the cabinet, the negative effects of the departmental system, aggravated in 1972 by the establishment of the Regional Council "against the advice of a

majority of departmental councilors, including those from the PSG," the mayor of Montsinery-Tonnegrande stated: "This situation threatened to worsen due to the passage without amendment of the law of 2 March 1982, since this law provided for the election by all of the voters of the departmental council and the regional council."

"Thus, the French Government took the wise decision to carry out a simplification of the administrative system in Guiana. The objective is to allow the citizens to express their wishes with full clarity and sincerity and enable them to follow and check closely the performance of their elected representatives placed closest to them. The manner of expression chosen is that of universal suffrage on a direct and proportional basis." In the view of Dr Lecante, this decision, "is right in line with socialist thinking."

Before speaking in more specific terms and opening the debate among party members, the leaders of the PSG prefer to wait for the preparation of the draft bill and to have in their possession further information and documentation.

The trip that Elie Castor, Raymond Tarcy and Georges Othily are presently making to metropolitan France is to accomplish this purpose.

Departmental Council Activities

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 9 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] The decision of the government to establish unicameral assemblies in the overseas departments did not have much effect on the work and the equanimity of departmental council members who met Wednesday afternoon [8 July]. Some 16 reports from the Committee on Administrative and Social Affairs were entered on the agenda.

Three reports--one about "the situation affecting departmental property," squatters and the proposal to establish a departmental agent in 1983; the second on changes in the role of conciliators; and the third "on the extension of the teachers college and the transfer from the departmental center of teaching documents"--will be turned over to a committee for more detailed examination.

In the course of this meeting, there was a great deal of politics considered in connection with school questions. Thus, following the decision of the minister of national education to provide a one-time grant to the commune of Kourou to deal with the increase in the student population, the councilors changed the order of priority of school construction that had been approved last December. Elsewhere, this possibility for a change in priority, in the course of the year, has been made a matter of principle.

The councilors were also interested in the expenditures on departmental study scholarships for the year 1982-83. A total of 16 scholarships were available. There was an exchange of views between the proposals of the vice rector of the university, the students and the committee.

A total of Fr651,378 will be spent on public schools. Private schools under contract, for their part, will receive Fr 242,125.

Another measure adopted yesterday [8 July]: increasing to Fr400 the allowance provided to directors of child care centers. This monthly grant, which lets them meet the costs inherent in their profession, had not been increased since 1972.

Under the heading of public works: the DDE [Departmental Equipment Bureau] will build a sports field at the Institut Medico-Educatif de Baduel. The drinking water distribution network will be extended further in the south-eastern part of Cayenne--a preliminary estimate of Fr2,410,335.52 has been prepared by the DDE for the project--and a credit of Fr130,000 was approved to repair and maintain dock facilities for the Maroni ferry.

The departmental council also agreed to transfer the funds initially approved for construction of Maripasoula airport for on "the access road to the airport."

Another report adopted was on the purchase of a piece of ground owned by the department, about 3 hectares in area, for the symbolic Fr1, to be acquired by the commune of Remire-Montjoly. The case was handled in the departmental council by Etienne-Yves Barrat. Public housing will be constructed on this plot. Paulin Brune and Ho-A-Chuck, though expressing agreement with this proposal, also expressed concern that this gift will create a precedent.

Finally, the department will provide its financial guarantee to the Guianan Association for Assistance to the Aged in connection with a loan of Fr502,000.

Before closing the session, the councilors agreed to meet again on Monday, 12 July at 5:00 pm.

5170

CSO: 3100/880

MARCH 1982 POPULATION CENSUS REPORT ISSUED

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 12 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] The results of the census of March, 1982, have just been issued by the departmental office of the INSEE [National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies]. There were 73,022 inhabitants counted in French Guiana, or an increase of 32 percent in the population, compared to the census of October, 1974.

About 52 percent of the total population, or 38,155 inhabitants, live in the commune of Cayenne. The communes of Matoury (2,543 inhabitants) and Remire-Montjoly (6,984 inhabitants) more than doubled their populations in 8 years.

Overall, Cayenne Island, with 47,451 inhabitants, houses more than 65 percent of the people residing in the department.

The commune of Kourou has more than 7,000 inhabitants (7,167). Saint-Laurent has almost 7,000 inhabitants (6,984). With populations of between 1,000 and 2,000 inhabitants are the communes of Sinnamary (1,991 inhabitants), Mana (1,721 inhabitants), Saint-Georges (1,199 inhabitants), Grand-Santi Papaichton (1,051 inhabitants), and Maripasoula (1,007 inhabitants).

The three communes with the smallest populations in the department are Saul (68 inhabitants), Ouanary (89 inhabitants), and Saint-Elie (138 inhabitants).

A provisional count by place of birth, prepared by hand, was also made. The results make it appear that there has been a net increase in Haitian immigration, even if the figure of 10,000 Haitians, mentioned here and there, has not been reached. Elsewhere, 74 percent of the population was born in "French territories."

[table on next page]

Breakdown of the Population of French Guiana by Place of Birth by Totals and Percentage

<u>French Guiana</u>	<u>French Antilles</u>	<u>Metropolitan France</u>	<u>Brazil</u>	<u>Haiti</u>	<u>Other Places</u>	<u>Total</u>
41,350	4,812	7,799	3,358	5,492	10,211	73,022
56.6	6.6	10.7	1.4	4.6	14.0	100.0

5170

CSO: 3100/881

NJM STATEMENT BLASTS ALISTER HUGHES' SPEECH IN ROSEAU

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Jul 82 p 5

[Text]

**ST GEORGE'S Fri.,
(Cana):**

THE RULING New Jewel Movement (NJM) headed by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop here today accused Grenadian freelance journalist Alister Hughes of joining with foreign reactionaries to attack his own country.

In a caustic statement, the NJM branded him unpatriotic, and warned that anyone wishing to "stand in the path of freedom of the Grenadian people will face the full weight of the revolution."

The sharp NJM reaction was triggered by Hughes address, in his capacity as executive secretary of the Caribbean Press Council, to last week's annual convention of the Dominica Freedom Party in Roseau.

He called on the church in Grenada to champion the rights of the people and said the problem now confronting the island was that it had a government which had "cast aside the accepted principles of democracy, and because of this has been caught up in the vice of having to suppress freedom of speech for its own protection."

The NJM came to power in a March 1979 coup — the first in the Commonwealth Caribbean — and has since suspended the constitution.

Following is part of the NJM statement:

"The New Jewel Movement totally condemns Alister Hughes, a so called adherent of objective journalism for his unpatriotic and scandalous behaviour at the recently concluded convention of the ruling Freedom Party of Dominica.

"Hughes has once again exposed himself as one of the biggest liars in the Caribbean.

"Having accepted an invitation from Prime Minister Eugenia Charles to address her party convention, Hughes joined with his reactionary and backward colleagues in viciously attacking his own country and peaceful and freedom loving people of Grenada.

"Could you imagine a man who claims to be a defender of human rights joining hands with Charles, the worst human rights violator in the region, to attack his own people?

"Grenadines must also take note that Hughes had also used the political platform of the DFP to call upon the church in Grenada to join him in his counter-revolutionary activities against the free people of our country.

"The New Jewel Movement wishes to reiterate its firm commitment to continue to build a new and just society on behalf of the patriotic people of Grenada. Anyone who wishes to stand in the path of freedom of the Grenadian people will face the full weight of the revolution."

CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH HEARS OF INVESTMENT PLANS

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 14 Jul 82 p 2

[Article by Kevin Williams]

[Text] THE People's Revolutionary Government is expected to get some \$95 million over the next five years for developing the productive sector.

Minister of Industrial Development Kenrick Radix made this disclosure during the closing of the first conference of Grenada Manufacturers and Employers on Employment and Economic Growth at the Dome last Saturday.

Bro. Radix said he thought it was important for the participants to have this information so that they could be confident that development of the nation was the number one priority, and with that knowledge, have confidence in the climate that will exist.

On the development of the human resources he said that in three years there were over 320 students at universities abroad which was even more than countries four times bigger than our own.

"The direction is clear and the confidence of the private sector must also be there because objectively speaking, the Government is doing the job of developing the country by all the criteria that one uses and the private sector has a fundamental role to play in this development" he said.

Pro. Radix urged the private sector to utilise the resources, opportunities and mechanisms of the Caribbean Development

Bank which had certain funds for lending the private sector, particularly for industrial activities.

"If we do not utilise these funds, not only do we miss the infusion of these resources for industrial development but also the funds may also be reallocated" he said.

He disclosed that in the coming months, his Ministry will be seeking to develop an industrial sector plan. The Ministry was also

developing budget plan for 1983-1985 in industry and was requesting the full co-operation of the private sector.

Explaining the plan, he said it would mean that there would not be unnecessary duplication. One example he gave was that of the private and public sectors co-operating together to order from the same supplier or different suppliers greater volumes of materials which will give a cost benefit to the country, saving fundamentally thousands of dollars.

"This is one of the many areas in which mutual benefit and the allocation of foreign exchange can be made", he said.

Bro. Radix said that some ideas had been put forward as to the need for institutional mechanisms for contact and consultation. Without a brief from the PRG he could say with certainty that the economic section of the New Jewel Movement and the PRG will study all the ideas coming from the conference so that a suitable mechanism to remain constantly in touch could be found.

He disclosed that over the last few days discussions were held with a United Nations organisation to establish a trade information centre in Grenada.

The conference agreed that there should be a stronger link of communication between the private and public sectors and looked at the possibility of organising a joint private and public sector body to improve communication and to facilitate planning.

It also agreed that the industrial strategy must be agri-based embracing the related activities dealing with agro-industries.

The participants also agreed to look at the possibility of establishing a venture bank for capital projects and recognised the need for the establishment of a national information centre for trade and related matters.

This conference, which began on July 3, was organised by the Ministry of Industrial Development and the Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

FARM WORKERS UNION IN BATTLE WITH PRIVATE ESTATE OWNERS

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 10 Jul 82 p 10

[Article by Keith Jeremiah]

[Text] AS the Agricultural and General Workers' Union (AGWU) presses forward with its profit-sharing struggle for agricultural workers, a few private estate owners are increasing their reluctance to negotiate.

Some of them have ignored the union's demands, showing contempt to the over 2,000 agricultural workers that AGWU represents and who produce the country's wealth.

Profit-sharing, as everyone knows, has been introduced by the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) so that those people who actually create the profits have the right to share part of them. Profit sharing stipulates that one-third of the profits made on the estate should be shared among its workers.

Most estates, including state-owned ones, have agreed to profit-sharing in principle, AGWU said,

but correctly predicted that it will be a 'big battle' to bring it into reality, particularly on private estates. Workers on the state-owned Marlmount Estate, in St. David's last year became the first to share profits.

Already, as far as some agricultural workers are concerned, this 'big battle' has begun. In mid-May, AGWU sent letters to private estates and state farms, asking that their audited financial accounts be submitted to the union for inspection.

'We didn't request this out of the blue, but based on an agreement between the union and all employers,' AGWU said.

A couple of patriotic-minded employers have submitted their accounts, but there are others who seem to be deliberately withholding theirs.

Examination of the

accounts is important for the union and the workers to know if the estate is making a profit or loss, and, on this basis, determine if workers would be able to share profits.

This deliberate and blunt refusal by certain private estate owners to submit their accounts for inspection by the union and workers, again shows the disrespect and indifference they have for working people.

However, this "big battle" is not only to attain more material benefits for agricultural workers. To them, it has significant social, moral cultural and political implications.

For years, first under colonialism and then under Gaistryism, big estate owners subjected agricultural workers to the worst forms of exploitation and humiliation. After the historic 1951 struggle, which Gaistry betrayed, there were no major struggles by agricultural workers.

The Revolution has awakened the agricultural working class by making them aware that they belong to the most important class in our society.

For the first time in more than 25 years, they have begun to take industrial action to back up their demands.

But the anti-worker posture adopted by certain private estate owners reveals that they have not yet awakened to that reality.

Hence, what this "big battle" must achieve is making such employers conscious that agricultural workers create the profits, are indispensable to the nation and ought to be treated with respect, equality and dignity.

This big battle is also a struggle for the self-worth and recognition of the rights of agricultural workers, which had been denied them in past years. At the same time, this battle will sharpen the workers' consciousness, making them realise that they are an important and powerful force in the society.

Unlike 1951, this struggle is not spontaneous, but organised and serious, and, being an integral part of the island's ongoing revolutionary process, will succeed.

SHIP BRINGS GENERATOR, CEMENT, OTHER AID ITEMS FROM CUBA

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 14 Jul 82 p 1

[Article by Patsy Lewis]

[Text] LESS electricity blackouts and an improved Radio Free Grenada (RFG), are some of the expected results of the visit here by a Cuban boat, the "Bahia De Nipe".

Apart from books for the Centre for Popular Education's adult literacy phase, the boat has brought a generator for Grenlec, equipment for RFG, and furniture for the Fisheries School, among other things.

It has also brought some 40,000 bags of cement for the international airport, bringing the value of its cargo to Grenada to over \$1 million.

The Grenlec generator was sent to Cuba last December to be repaired, after it was damaged in a fire.

Technicians

Generation engineer Godric Pursoo said the repaired generator, which generates some 1,000 kw, will greatly increase Grenlec's electricity capacity. It will also reduce the incidences of blackouts, he said.

The generator will be installed by next weekend, according to Bro. Pursoo, and three Cuban technicians have also come, to install it and to test runs.

RFG will soon be heard on the FM metre band and its overall quality on station 990 will also improve with the arrival on the boat of a FM radio link, which will link up RFG's signal to the Beausejour transmitter.

Studio equipment, which according to RFG's manager Kamau McBarnette, is more advanced than that now being used, will improve the overall quality of what is aired and recorded on RFG.

The FM radio came from Cuba and is part of an agreement between the governments of Grenada and Cuba on communications assistance. The studio equipment came from the government of Hungary.

Some 38 desks and 76 chairs also came for the Fisheries School at True Blue. According to the school's vice-principal Johnson St. Louis, the furniture is much needed so that students can study in comfort. The furniture, he said, is a gift from the government of Cuba. Construction material for the international airport, has also arrived. Some three-and-a-half tons of concrete culverts, to run below the airstrip and provide an outlet for Hardy Bay, is part of this material. Other material for the terminal has also arrived

The boat came last Thursday, and leaves on the weekend.

CSO: 3025/393

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC REPORT--WHILE not doing too badly, Grenada's economy is feeling the squeeze of the international economic depression. Information from the Central Statistical Office of the Ministry of Finance reveals that for the first quarter of this year, domestic exports showed a decline of 16 per cent, as compared with the same period last year. Exports of cocoa were down by 30.6 per cent, nutmegs by 38.5 and bananas 17.8. However, other exports, mainly clothing and fresh fruits continue their strong upward trend accounting for 12 per cent of the total domestic exports in the first quarter of this year. On the imports side, increases continue to be moderate, being 1.6 per cent higher than in the corresponding period last year. Tourism is also on the decline. Arrivals of stay-over visitors were down 17.2 per cent, while the number of cruise ships visiting declined by 25.9 per cent as compared with the same period last year. Government revenue indicated a 6.4 per cent increase over the same period last year, [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 10 Jul 82 pp 2, 3]

COMMUNITY CENTERS--VILLAGERS in Concord, Florida, Grand Roy, Westerhall, Marli and Bellevue, will soon stop worrying about where they can meet to carry out their community activities. They will be getting community centres. Six new community centres, one each for each village, will soon be built with the help of \$350,368 from the European Development Fund, and \$329,000 from the Ministry of Education's capital budget. The villagers have already been consulted on what they want their community centres to be like, and felt that they should be able to accomodate day-care centres, libraries, and room for social activities, including parties. [Excerpts] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 14 Jul 82 p 3]

CSO: 3025/393

GOVERNMENT REPORT ADDRESSES ECONOMIC RECOVERY MEASURES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 Jul 82 p 3

[Article by Mike James]

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Wednesday, (CANA) — The Guyana Government says it is trying to secure foreign investment for the nationalised bauxite industry by March 1983, as part of an overall plan to pull the bankrupt economy out of its crisis.

The government's action programme, which will see foreign and local entrepreneurs offered equity participation in the large state-owned business sector, is detailed in an official document published here.

The document, from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, forms an appendix to a World Bank report on the findings of an economic mission which came to Guyana between February and April this year.

The government said that in view of the urgent need to put the economy back on a sound footing it had started talks on debt rescheduling and would enter "almost immediately" into a loan arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The action programme will also see a narrowing of government's involvement in the business sector, the statement said.

The Guyana Government owns the key sectors of the economy, including the main foreign exchange earners — bauxite, nationalised in 1970-71 from its former North

American owners, Alcan and Reynolds, sugar, taken over from the British, and rice.

Publication of the government's proposals coincides with the visit here of a joint IMF-World Bank mission which today started a two week analysis of the Guyana economy.

"The government is determined to follow a pragmatic course, adapting and adjusting its programmes, policies and institutions in a manner which would ensure stability and accelerated growth of the economy", the statement says.

It lists the following changes in policy and institutional arrangements as central to the programme:

- Adjusting the mix of public sector and private sector activity in the economy to enable the public sector to perform over a narrower range of activities at a higher level of efficiency.

- Reducing the central bureaucracy in favour of strengthening regional organisations where production is actually taking place and where more direct involvement of people can be assured.

- ~~Removing~~ bottlenecks and red tape which inhibit production, restarting and re-organising the flow of imported inputs necessary to facilitate a "production for

export" drive, and

— Redeploying people into directly productive activities, including agriculture in the private sector.

Within this framework, the action programme states that public sector entities will provide for appropriate involvement of well established foreign and local enterprises in order to obtain managerial, technological and marketing assistance.

"Wherever deemed desirable, the government will permit equity participation by such foreign and local enterprise", the statement promises.

In the case of the country's vital bauxite industry, the government programme says that "serious discussions are already underway with well established firms to secure managerial, technological and marketing support as well as equity participation."

"The government will pursue discussions with the companies with a sense of urgency to ensure the completion of studies (requested by the foreign companies) at the earliest practicable time and will aim at reaching an agreement with a selected partner during the first quarter of 1983", says the report.

The action programme adds however that the bauxite industry has projected a need for Guy \$95 million for refurbishing and upgrading the equipment infrastructure of the industry and that foreign exchange financing will also have to be found for important inputs.

The submissions by the government on the country's rice industry list a number of measures implemented earlier this year aimed at decentralising the operations of the state-run Guyana Rice Board (GRB) and increasing prices for paddy paid by the government to farmers.

"The stabilisation of the income of Guyana's numerous small farmers at a level which provides adequate producer incentives, remains an important objective of the GRB," the report states. To

achieve this, government proposes to set up an adequate minimum purchasing rice for paddy every year.

It will also adopt and announce before the end of 1982 a permanent pricing policy for the rice sector, the report says.

The programme however says that "the performance of the rice sector have been hampered by a lack of imported inputs and weaknesses in managerial and technical support", and that "it will be necessary to mobilise external resources to help to finance the required inputs."

Regarding the manufacturing sector, the action programme stresses that the Guyana Government is prepared to take all measures to expand this sector, noting that the services of a World Bank consultant are being obtained to help revise, clarify, and amplify a Guyana investment code published two years ago.

"The revised code will help remove any ambiguity or inadequacy regarding the government's determination to give the necessary assurances to private investors regarding the security of their investment and to provide every encouragement and support to their manufacturing and marketing activities", the government statement says.

The statement also goes on: "Given the decision to narrow the range of activities of the public sector, the government does not intend to start any operations."

It also stresses that the government "will not indefinitely carry deficit public sector corporations which are of a commercial type and therefore expected to make a surplus."

Instead, government will provide appropriate support to private investors to undertake as much as possible investment in the manufacturing sector and has targeted some enterprises for private participation.

"Among these enterprises, says the programme, are the Guyana Timbers Limited, Guyana Stockfeeds Limited, Glassworks, Guyana Fisheries Corporation and some of the diverse foreign private sectors", the programme promises.

In order to carry out its action-programme, the government also outlines to the World Bank its immediate short term needs including:

- Lifting immediately and substantially the current debt burden for a period of about two to three years, and spreading it out over a further seven to 10 year period.

- Capital inflow support for private investors, local and foreign to participate in the production for export drive,

- Implementing proposals for the adequate flow of imported inputs specific to manufacturing and export-oriented industries and

- Facilitating the continuous inflow of drugs and other medical supplies essential for maintaining the health and morale of the population.

The report says the Guyana Government has already entered a contingent

agreement for rescheduling its external commercial bank debts and that approaches have also been made to bilateral creditors to obtain similar agreements.

"To facilitate early launching of its economic programme, and reach agreements on debt rescheduling, the Guyana Government will enter almost immediately into discussions with the International Monetary Fund, with a view to seeking an early arrangement", the programme says.

It also points out that the IMF lag before effective implementation of government plans "implies the need for support during the interim period of the deleterious effects of default on debt and of an inability to sustain economic activity are to be avoided."

"We are therefore of the view that even while we are in the process of finalising a programme with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, we will need a continuation of bridging support to cope with our liquidity problem," the report adds.

SEAGA HAILS PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AT ADAMS LUNCHEON

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Jul 82 pp 1, 17

[Text]

DIVERGENCE from the principles of parliamentary democracy within the CARICOM Group of Nations was cited yesterday by Prime Minister Edward Seaga as a matter of crucial regional concern.

Mr. Seaga reaffirmed his commitment to parliamentary democracy, as against the Cuban model of peoples democracy, when he spoke at a luncheon given in his honour by Prime Minister Tom Adams of Barbados at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

Mr. Seaga's statement followed Mr. Adams own call on Wednesday night for a commitment to parliamentary democracy as he stated Barbados intention to move for amendment of preamble to the CARICOM Treaty when the CARICOM Heads of government meet later this year.

Mr. Seaga said yesterday that the coming Summit would be of critical importance in view of what was taking place in the Caribbean today.

Parliament was the most important institution in the land because laws underlay every other act or either reinforce or negate every right. The Caribbean was noted for its deep and continued interest in human rights and human rights themselves ran a gamut of interests.

It could be said that the right to life was perhaps the most fundamental, but, to his mind one right underlined all others and that was the political right to select the Government of a country, because all other rights sprang from that.

Parliamentary democracy provided the legislative machinery which either denied or provided every other right.

Against this background, one looked at what was taking place in the Caribbean today, at the divergence from the principles of parliamentary democracy which have begun to appear within our own CARICOM group and to adopt interests outside the CARICOM group. The result of all this was an attempt to indicate

to the peoples of the Caribbean that there was a viable alternative to parliamentary democracy and the democratic principles they cherish.

That alternative was something called the people's democracy and this was the Cuban model which we reject, Prime Minister Seaga said. Parliamentary democracy was a different thing in that it required affirmation of a body of people in a constituency, with the right to choose a leader.

No system has yet been devised that had proved itself better than parliamentary democracy, he maintained. It was something which we must take a principal objective of the group to which we belong, it is something that we must consider to be the priority item in the institutions to which we belong — CARICOM — for without this we would have amongst us those who only propose and support parliamentary democracy not those who are committed to fight against it.

I could not foresee any real future for an organisation, if in its own ranks it had the elements of its own destruction, he said.

MR. SEAGA SAID the region was therefore in a crucial and critical period in which we must make up our minds once and for all as to where we're going. It is either that we can sit down and talk as one common people with one common language and one common objective, or we must seek the corner places of rooms and screens behind which to hide in order to talk the things of importance lest they fall into hands that are committed to use them in a mischievous fashion.

The coming Heads of Government conference would therefore be one of critical importance.

Mr. Seaga said there was considerable lobbying towards holding that conference here, in the third week of October though Jamaica was not offering itself as the site. However, if chosen, Jamaica would be very pleased to consider it, and would be willing to set aside any other interest that we may have in order to accommodate it.

Thanking the Barbadian delegation for their visit, he spoke of the fruitful talks he had earlier in the day with Prime Minister Adams. The talks, he said, would continue today.

Mr. Adams, who presented a painting of the Barbadian Parliamentary buildings and of the War Memorial in Bridgetown, to Mr. Seaga on behalf of the people and Government of Barbados, said he appreciated the very useful discussions held so far. He thanked and commended the Jamaican Prime Minister for the skill with which he had directed the talks. The cordiality and usefulness of the talks would help in smoothing out the differences which appear, not between the two Governments, but between individual interest groups, he said.

MANLEY AIRS PNP POLICIES, CASTIGATES SEAGA GOVERNMENT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Jul 82 p 21

[Text]

Opposition Leader Mr. Michael Manley said on Sunday that a P.N.P. in power would take back any divestment undertaken by the present Government.

The P.N.P. President was speaking at the 9th annual conference of the party's Women's Movement, held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

Mr. Manley told the large audience: "It is clear that our time is coming again. Be serious about the completion of electoral reform started by the PNP."

One of the fundamental points during the discussions prior to the elections of 1980 was that no future elections would be held in Jamaica unless there was a national registration programme with photo-identification.

"It was a solemn pledge made by the two parties, so make sure that the government does not renege on this pledge," he told his hearers.

They should prepare themselves to be ready to be mobilized at any suggestion that the Government was going to back out, for if it did so there would be confrontation in Jamaica.

HYPOCRISY"

Turning to "deceptions"

by the Government. Mr. Manley said the people were told to expect "management." But after two years of "management," he said, "you can't get the B6 unit to work, and when you do coax it to work for two hours, the B2 goes out."

Referring to the Government's "ideological hypocrisy," Mr. Manley said that when the P.N.P. was pioneering the opening of new trade areas designed to diversify Jamaica's economic contacts, "I remember all the hullabaloo and the constant propaganda that trade with Cuba and selling bauxite to the Soviet Union was communism."

"It is therefore very interesting to learn that right now in London, a high-level trade mission, headed by the brother-in-law of the Prime Minister, and also the head of the bauxite institute which was established and which they have not dismantled, is heading eastward."

"They are going to buy more cars known as Ladas, sardines, and hope to increase the amount of bauxite they can sell to guess where? The Soviet Union. They are doing the very things we did, but when we did

it they confuse the Jamaican people with propaganda."

Mr. Manley said he was glad "they were learning, and I hope that the Jamaican people are learning, and don't let them forget."

On divestment, he said, the Government had decided to divest everything that the P.N.P. had brought under popular control.

"We have seen some extraordinary results. For one thing they have divested Southern Processors, fired the workers and closed it down, and in the meantime tell the farmers to plant tomatoes and pineapples."

As the farmers decided to reap the tomatoes, the factory was closed down and hundreds of small farmers' tomatoes rotted in the ground and pineapples were on the streets "almost coming out of your ears."

HOTELS

On National Hotel and Properties, Mr. Manley said that when the company was formed it was described as "socialist madness," and a "dream of romantic idiots," but today, he said,

"Inter-Continental Montego Bay gone, and not even Rockefeller or Presi-

dent Reagan can keep them here. Inter-Continental Kingston gone, Runaway Bay Hotel gone, and the hotel in Portland gone, all of them in private hands. What is to save them? The N.H.P. It is not long before the people will learn," he said.

Mr. Manley said that at the very moment the N.H.P. was taking over hotels, there were persons calling for the divestment of the JPSCo.

"They can divest all they want. When the P.N.P. comes to power, we will take it back," he said.

Jamaica was in a state of chaos and confusion from one end to the other and nobody on earth or in heaven, can say we do it."

"Whatever confusion there is today, don't blame us. If the tourists are not coming is not through any word we have said." Whenever he went abroad, he invited tourists to come here, he said.

Mr. Manley said that the Government had said that Jamaica was ahead of its economic recovery schedule, yet workers in their thousands were walking the streets today and light and water were things of the past.

MINISTER DISCUSSES NATIONAL SECURITY, DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 Jul 82 p 1

[Text]

NATIONAL SECURITY AND JUSTICE MINISTER, the Hon. Winston Spaulding, said on Friday, that if the legacy of neglect particularly in the area of security had continued "we would not have a country today.

He said that by creating the conditions which support stability and the rule of law "we strengthen democracy, not weaken it.

The Minister was speaking at the first graduation ceremony held at Twickenham Park Police Training School, formerly the Jamaica School of Agriculture. Ninety-nine police officers, 79 men and 20 women graduated.

"You who are graduating today are the first ambassadors of this new institution even though you have only been partially trained here. Your conduct will influence the reaction of the public to the training offered here and affect the relationship between the public and the police which is essential to the success of the Police Force, he said.

"Some persons begrudge the police the fact that these facilities at Twickenham Park are to be used for the establishment of what is intended to be a modern and efficient police training institution.

"That minority of people who say that security is equivalent to repression, those people who say that money spent in providing proper security is merely spent in repression are people who undoubtedly need to have their heads examined. Repression usually stems from lack of security. Lack of proper security breeds anarchy and out of anarchy comes rule by force and repression.

"By creating the conditions which support stability, security and the rule of law, we strengthen democracy, not weaken it. If the legacy of neglect particularly in the area of security had continued we would not have a country today. Mr. Spaulding said.

APPEALING TO "THOSE PEOPLE, some of whom are educated and ought to know better, not to behave like the "lunatic fringe Mr. Spaulding said that they should not try to pass a negative atmosphere around a very positive development.

Without security and stability there can be no progress, without proper training among many other things there can be no justice and efficient maintenance of law and order.

"Those who attack proper and positive preparations for our nation's security and the defence of our people's lives and property owe this nation an explanation.

"The transfer of the Police Training School from Port Royal to this location is part of this administration's positive preparations for improving the security of the nation, the Minister said.

Responding to an appeal by the Commandant of the School, Acting Assistant Commissioner Mr. L. R. Wallen, for a parade ground and a standby power plant, the Minister said that to get the training school operational the government allocated \$1½ million during the last financial year for general improvements and refurbishing.

He said that another \$600,000 was provided this year to continue further work. Money was provided for the parade ground and the many other facilities that were needed.

Speaking specifically to the graduating class the Minister said: "You are

now passing out into a complex world in which great achievement is possible. Our society needs well trained and dedicated young policemen. The stability and future of our country depends to a great extent on the level of security that we provide.

Commissioner of Police Mr. W. O. Bowes, who introduced the Minister, said that the graduates were seeing a bit of history. He spoke about the removal of the training school from Elletson Road to Port Royal in 1957 and said that at that time trainees had to cook and eat under trees for about five weeks.

He challenged the graduates to continue doing well in their careers and continue to make history.

Present at the ceremony were two former Commissioners of Police, Mr. Basil Robinson, now custos of St. Catherine, and Mr. Desmond Campbell.

MANUFACTURERS ACCUSE COMMERCIAL BANKS OF HAMPERING EXPORTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Jul 82 p 13

[Text] LOCAL EXPORTERS are unable to fill export orders because they are unable to get commercial bank guarantees necessary to finance the orders, yet the banks were "loaded" with funds which they refused to lend.

This was stated by the President of the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association Mr. R. Anthony Williams, at the monthly meeting of the J.M.A. directors in Kingston yesterday.

His statement led to a call from the J.M.A. Directors for manufacturers to finance themselves through the establishment of a financial institution which would understand their needs and be able to deal with them.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID it was significant that the Development Finance Corporation, later to become the Jamaica Development Bank, had been formed as early as 20 years ago because Jamaica was not satisfied that the banks were adequate agents through which financing for development could be channelled.

"Commercial banks then were not prepared to take risks. Commercial banks now are not prepared to take risks," he said.

In the '70s when export was the priority, as was the case now, the Jamaica Export Credit Insurance Corporation, which was not formed for that purpose, had to come in to provide financing for exports. Today, the Export Development Fund required a bank guarantee for access to the Fund and exporters were unable to fill export orders because they were unable to get commercial bank guarantees necessary to finance the orders.

THIS WAS INCREDIBLE since the banks were "loaded" with loanable funds which they refused to lend, and although the cost of money to the commercial banks had decreased over the last two months, these institutions had not seen fit to reduce the interest charged and loans.

The interest paid on deposits other than savings had been reduced from 11% and 12% to as low as 8-3/4%, while the interest charged on loans had remained at between 16% and 18%.

Mr. Williams said the factories of some manufacturers had not been visited by their bankers for several years. He therefore urged these bank officers to visit the factories and learn at first hand what manufacturers were trying to achieve, and "to understand that production was not merely producing security many times over to back loans".

THE J.M.A. PRESIDENT also appealed to members to seek the services of reputable accountants and consultants to assist in revaluing assets; to bring off-balance assets into businesses; and to seek long-term financing and or private placement for equity capital.

In this way, they would have a much better chance of getting financing and guarantees for their businesses, he said.

Responding to the President's statement, the J.M.A. Directors observed that it was time to start financing themselves, to examine the feasibility of implementing or working with one bank, insurance company or other group "in joint venture", to put together a financial institution to handle finances and deal with their needs.

Said the J.M.A. Directors: "The Small Businesses Association has done it, why can't we If we have the will we can put it together."

CSO: 3025/394

PNP STATEMENT HITS JLP RESTRICTIONS ON FREE SPEECH

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Jul 82 p 1

[Text]

The following statement was issued by the P.N.P. on Wednesday, July 21: The Executive Committee of the People's National Party is very concerned at the continued attempts to limit freedom of speech, by the Jamaica Labour Party. The most recent example is the reaction of some JLP Members of Parliament and some columnists in the daily newspapers.

The motion in the House of Representatives to declare Harry Belafonte, Persona Non Grata, is a typical example of the Jamaica Labour Party's reaction to criticism of those whom they support. The attempts by some columnists to personally attack Belafonte in an obscene manner is a reminder of the yellow journalism practised by some writers in recent years.

Harry Belafonte, an American citizen of Jamaican parentage, is noted in the United States not only as a singer and actor, but as a supporter of the movement for black equality and a passionate advocate of the rights of all those who suffer from exploitation and oppression. In his chosen field of the arts, he is noted for excellence. Belafonte therefore, in keeping with objectives of excellence, made a presentation on the role of the artistes in the struggle for justice and world peace. During the course of the presentation, he was critical of the present Reagan Administration in the United States, and warned the Jamaican people that our country was being used as the new pawn in America's Foreign Policy.

Nothing he said is false. Nothing he said was inappropriate to the occasion. But the truth hurt the

reactionaries and all those who support the present model of development being pursued by the Government of the Jamaica Labour Party.

Instead of closely examining his statement, various columnists have chosen instead, to launch a personal attack on Belafonte; thus demonstrating their intolerance and intellectual paucity. On the other hand, the hundreds of Jamaicans who participated in the Norman Washington Manley Awards function gave a standing ovation to Belafonte and his remarks; in a demonstrative answer to the vulgar critics.

IN ALL OF THIS, the public is made to forget that one of Jamaica's finest Musicians received the Norman Washington Manley Award for Excellence. The Executive Committee of the People's National Party wishes to congratulate and pay sincere tribute to Mr. Jimmy Cliff. We also extend congratulations to the organizers of the function.

The Jamaican people should be warned that the Belafonte Affair demonstrates that there are persons who wish to stifle free speech in this country. That there are persons whose definition of free speech means speech only for those who agree with them. That there are those who would go to any lengths to victimize those who disagree with them.

The Executive Committee of the People's National Party reminds the Jamaican people that a former Jamaica Labour Party Government banned books, withheld Passports and declared others Persona Non Grata under questionable circumstances. The Belafonte affair is yet another indication of the authoritarian tendencies of this regime.

IADB GRANTS LOAN FOR PROJECTS BY LOW-INCOME PEOPLE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Jul 82 p 15

[Text]

Financing to the extent of \$250,000 to provide credits designed to help low-income people engaged in small-scale farming and industrial projects has been approved by the Inter-American Development Bank.

Projects for People, Ltd, a private non-profit organization created to help raise the living standards of low-income people in Jamaica, will carry out the programme.

In the agriculture sector, initial emphasis will be placed on crops other than sugar, on small-scale livestock production and on fish farming. The small credits to be extended will be used to finance the procurement of tools, and equipment, livestock, fertilizer, improved seeds and other working capital inputs, as well as farm infrastructure improvements.

In the small-industry sector, emphasis will be placed on the production of leather goods, furniture, small agricultural tools, food processing and other. Credits to small industry will finance the procurement of tools, equipment, construction of workshops, raw materials and other working capital inputs.

The credits are designed

to provide the beneficiaries with the means to help themselves to increase their production, raise their income levels, and also to establish their credit-worthiness so that they may later become eligible for financing through conventional sources, an IDB news release said.

The initial beneficiaries of the project will consist of four co-operatives or other groups which currently lack access to conventional lines of credit. It is estimated that during the initial three years of execution, approximately 110 families will benefit from the programme.

In addition to the credit programme, the Bank approved a \$75,000 technical co-operation grant to strengthen the P.F.P. and to provide technical assistance to the project beneficiaries.

The financing, which was approved within the Banks Programme for the Financing of Small Projects, was extended from the Fund for Special Operations for a term of 40 years at a commission of one per cent per annum. Up to the equivalent of \$100,000 will be disbursed in U.S. dollars, and the balance in local currency.

AID FOR RURAL ECONOMY HIT BY SUGAR, BANANA DECLINES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Jul 82 p 7

[Text]

THE SHARP DECLINE IN SUGAR AND BANANA PRODUCTION over the past two years, has resulted in a lessening of potential earnings of some \$26 million. As a consequence, the amount of money in circulation in the rural community, was reduced by this amount, over the period.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga pointed to the decline and its effect on the money supply, as he addressed the 1982 annual meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society in the Bank of Jamaica auditorium, on Wednesday, on credit availability to farmers.

Responding to what he said were complaints that money in circulation in the island was not enough to buy the crops being produced by farmers, the Prime Minister said that the amount of money earned from bananas exported by farmers, fell from \$13 million in 1979 to \$5 million by 1981. This meant a loss of earnings amounting to \$8 million.

In the case of sugar, the 1981 crop fell by 20,000 tons, from 220,000 tons to 200,000 tons. By that fall in the production of sugar, the sum of \$18 million which should have gone into the hands of sugar workers, cane farmers and the estates, was taken out of circulation.

So that the decline in those two crops, meant that a total \$26 million which would have gone into the hands of the rural population, was taken out of circulation.

The Prime Minister said that until production was revived, something needed to be done to get money into circulation.

For that reason, the Government had introduced the new rural road repair programme, which would have the effect of putting \$30 million into circulation. This money would be spent on repairs to major roads, not only in agricultural areas, but in other areas as well. This is intended to put money back into the hands of the rural community, by providing work for labourers and other categories of workers. Of the \$30 million, it was estimated that about \$20 million would be paid to these workers.

Mr. Seaga said the programme would continue from year to year until all the major rural roads were fixed, and after the banana and sugar industries had been revived.

BRIEFS

FARMERS REGISTER--COLLECTION OF INFORMATION, ISLAND-WIDE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPILING A FARMERS' REGISTER which will provide data for the development and planning of the agricultural sector by the Ministry of Agriculture, is to begin shortly. Launching of the survey for the Register, was done by the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick, at the Ministry, Thursday morning. In his launching statement the Minister said the Register would include the evaluation of national and international projects and programme. It will also provide a complete and up-to-date list of farmers from which samples can be selected for future surveys. For the purposes of this Register the definition of a farmer will be in keeping with that used in the recent Census. The information which will be collected includes the name of the farmer and the location of the farm, the type of land tenure, the type and acreage of domestic and export crops, and the type and numbers of livestock. The collection of the data will be undertaken by the Data Bank Division of this Ministry with assistance from the field officers within each Extension Area, and will begin on August 3, 1982. It is expected that the collection of data phase will be completed by the end of August. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Jul 82 p 6]

ENERGY MINISTER ON INFLATION, FISCAL DEFICIT, OTHER ISSUES

Lima OIGA in Spanish 12 Jul 82 pp 22-26

[Interview with Minister of Energy and Mines Pedro Pablo Kuczynski by Uri Ben Schmucl, date, time and place not given]

[Text] Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, minister of energy and mines, hinted that by 28 July he will no longer be a member of the Cabinet.

"I will devote my time to sports and the flute," he said when OIGA asked him about the matter during an exclusive interview.

The minister denied that he plans to move to Boston, "because it is a very cold place," and indicated there is "no way" he will replace Manuel Ulloa as minister of economics.

He also talked about the meeting of the Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries (CIPEC) and the problems related to the drop in prices for metals on the international market.

Inflation, the government's economic policy, rises in gasoline prices and the prospects for oil were also discussed.

With regard to the economic situation, Kuczynski said that "the water is lapping at our feet," and that although he agrees with the government's basic economic policy, in its execution "there are things that could be done better."

In addition, he gave details about an inter-ministerial coordination meeting that took place last Monday, but he explained that no list of demands has been drawn up to present to Premier Ulloa, just "a series of suggestions" concerning the austerity measures.

He predicted that inflation will be at 55 percent by the end of the year, and stressed that curbing the fiscal deficit will not mean holding down public investments. Here are the highlights of the interview:

[Question] The meeting of the Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries, which begins today, Monday, in Lima, has three principal objectives: to counteract speculation, which drives down the price of copper; to

find formulas to stimulate a market in which consumption is on a downslide; and to revitalize CIPEC in organizational terms. Do you think those objectives will be achieved, and in any case, what operational measures should be taken to do so?

[Answer] I will give you a one-word answer: hopefully. At a multilateral meeting it is very difficult for any one participating government to make public proposals before reaching private agreements. Otherwise, the inevitable variations in opinion that can exist would endanger the success of the meeting.

I think there is a consensus on several points among the principal copper exporting countries that comprise CIPEC: the first point of agreement is that any decision should be a joint one; an institution like this cannot adopt individual decisions, because that would vitiate its objectives. Secondly, any decision must be practical and feasible for the CIPEC countries. That means, in the third place, that it is very difficult for the CIPEC nations--which are the lowest-cost producers in the world--to cut production.

Another fundamental aspect is that the fall in the price of metals, including copper, is due principally to the recession in industrialized nations. Certainly there are speculative elements throughout the market that accentuate the trends, in this case downward trends, but the main thing is the lack of demand. I think we have to situate ourselves in that context in order to act with common sense.

[Question] Peru, Chile, Zambia and Zaire produce 70 percent of the copper that is sold internationally; the energy minister of Zambia came early to Lima to talk with you, after visiting Chile, where you also made a lightning visit. Bearing that in mind, it is rumored that CIPEC could adopt a measure with copper similar to what the United States did with silver; that is, suspending all sales. How much truth is there to that?

[Answer] First of all, I would like to explain that while Peru, Chile, Zambia and Zaire produce 70 percent of the copper that is marketed internationally, that is only 30 percent of the copper that is consumed in the world. There are large producers like the United States and the Soviet Union that do not participate in international trade.

Responding to your question, I could not venture to guess whether sales will be suspended or not. I think it is more feasible to have a price system that reflects the nature of the long-term contracts many producing countries have, rather than a suspension of sales. That is, producers' prices should have a level below which no one would sell. However, this entails several problems, and we return to the initial point: the lack of demand on the market. If I run a dress shop and women don't want to buy dresses, raising the price isn't going to get them to buy more. That is somewhat the problem we have here.

I think production cutbacks are very damaging to countries where this sector is vital to the economy, also bearing in mind that they are the

lowest-cost producers in the world, above all because of the quality of their mines. Peru, for example, is one of the few countries today where the copper industry continues to function without great losses, although naturally there are some. In the United States, production is at a virtual standstill in some mines. That is why I think the CIPEC countries will not take the step of cutting back production.

The other aspect is to know--and that is the \$64,000 question--what will happen to the world economy. If between now and December there is a recovery and the market knows that, then there will be an upswing. That is much easier than operating in a market that is on the downswing, which has been happening during the first half of this year.

Consequently, any measure taken will have to wait a while to be implemented, perhaps 2 or 3 months, so that we can see where the market is really going.

[Question] With respect to silver, you said a few days ago that there had been a 20 percent improvement in the price. Do you think this crisis is of short or long duration?

[Answer] Two major events have happened in silver in recent weeks. First, the U.S. Government announced that it will indefinitely suspend the sale of its silver reserves. Second, President Belaunde announced that Peru is studying, along with other silver producing countries, the possibility of refusing to sell below a given price, which would be above the present price.

These two factors led to a slight rise in the market, amounting to \$5 or \$6. But that is within a very low level, and it is not a sustained increase; here today, gone tomorrow. I repeat that we must take into consideration that the world is in an industrial recession. The demand for steel in the United States has fallen by 50 percent; automobile sales have dropped 40 percent; housing construction is off 70 percent. All this affects the demand for raw materials, particularly metals.

Silver, unlike copper, has built up substantial reserves. Even if the economy does pick up in the United States and Europe, there will be no rapid recovery of industrial demand for silver. On the other hand, silver, also unlike copper, is more susceptible to political and speculative influences. The war in the Middle East is another factor that has caused silver prices to rise slightly. Thus, we are waiting to see what will happen on the market. I would be lying to OIGA's readers if I said the market was going up. We don't know. The only thing we are doing is talking with other silver exporting countries like Canada and Mexico to see if we might reach an understanding concerning the market. But that is not easy either, because in Canada's case nearly all the producers are private, and have a major proportion of U.S. stockholders; therefore, they would be subject to that country's antitrust laws, which would make an understanding difficult.

[Question] According to a local magazine, the statements you made 2 weeks ago (that mining enterprises will go bankrupt or shut down, with the resultant massive layoffs) have caused a furor not only among unions, but in the

labor minister himself. According to the magazine, he was a little irritated because statements of that nature cause labor and social tempers to flare. What do you have to say?

[Answer] I did not say that many mining enterprises would go bankrupt. I said that if they don't take action, several firms might go under, especially at the current price level.

Thus, there are two conditions: the present level of prices must continue, and nothing must be done. We cannot predict the level, but we can take action.

[Question] What action will be taken?

[Answer] I have already prepared a series of measures that will be studied this week by the council of ministers. Hopefully, they will be implemented immediately, to help straighten out the situation. I think the interpretation of what I said was incorrect. I am not a magician; I can't predict whether mining companies will go bankrupt. The only thing I am saying is that if we don't act now, the situation will be serious.

[Question] What are the emergency measures?

[Answer] They are varied, and they are in the government and special credit areas. We have had long talks with mining enterprises about this.

[Question] Half of the foreign reserves that come into this country come from mineral exports. But due to the fall in the price of silver, Peru's income will drop by \$200 million this year. The total loss stemming from the lower metals prices will be about \$600 million. In addition, non-traditional exports have fallen off, and international credit institutions are reluctant to grant loans to Latin American countries, partly because of the recession and partly because of the pro-Argentine position during the Malvinas war. Considering all of this, what do you think will happen to the local economy?

[Answer] As for non-traditional exports, I don't think it is correct to say they have fallen; on the contrary, I think they have risen. The fact is, however, there has been a decline in the value of mining exports of about \$600 million compared to 1980, and about \$400 million compared to 1981.

On the other hand, though, there are some sectors that have made up for that loss. The volume of petroleum exports during the second half of this year will be considerably greater than before, and we have managed to maintain a very acceptable price on the present market, some \$34 or \$35 per barrel. Although this does not entirely make up for the drop in minerals, it means that the picture is not as gloomy as some would paint it.

Concerning the remainder of your question, I believe we must look at the situation in terms of several factors. Peru is much better off than other countries, with a growth rate of 3 or 4 percent of the gross domestic

product (modest, but positive compared to other countries), thanks largely to agriculture.

We also have the support of the International Monetary Fund. One could argue technically that the IMF is the bad guy in the film, or that the cure is worse than the disease, but the fact remains that the IMF is supporting us with 850 million in Special Drawing Rights, equivalent to \$1 billion.

In the third place, the Central Bank a month ago obtained a tertiary line of credit amounting to \$200 million, and the Financial Development Corporation (COFIDE), also a month ago, obtained a loan for \$350 million. I participated in that transaction by talking to banks about Peru's economic situation.

It is true that the interest rates paid by Latin American countries and by all borrowers in the world have risen substantially in the last 3 or 4 months, but I don't think the Malvinas incident is a factor here.

Many international banks are in a weak position because of the recession, so naturally they are trying to compensate their losses on the one hand, and improve their margins on the other hand. The Malvinas conflict is simply a smokescreen, an excuse. Even if it were a factor, which I doubt, Peru has a great reputation abroad thanks to President Belaunde's peace efforts.

Thus, it would be wrong to say that Peru cannot obtain credit, that we have been damaged on the markets; that does not jibe with reality. What is true is that we are going through a difficult time. In comparison with 1980, copper has been cut in half, and silver has been reduced to one fourth of what it was. The recession in the United States has driven the unemployment rate up to nearly 10 percent, while steel production has plunged 60 percent.

All the countries of the world, then, are on a ship that is taking on water fast. Peru, fortunately, has a good seat on the ship, and so far only our feet have gotten wet. Some are in up to their necks.

[Question] Do you feel that Peru will eventually be in water up to its neck?

Answer] I believe it will not reach our neck because our policies are basically correct. Their execution, naturally, sometimes leaves something to desire. Everything is debatable; some like austerity, others don't. . .

Question] It would appear that you don't like it, for example. . .

Answer] No, all I am saying is that it is not easy. If I tell my son, "You can't eat cornflakes because there's no money," he's not going to like it. At this ministry we are suffering from austerity because we have a budget that was cut back from last year's level, in nominal soles. In real terms, we are about 60 percent lower.

[Question] It is said that the recent austerity measures (such as the requirement that public enterprises turn over 80 percent of their profits to

the Treasury, and the authorization of the Economics Ministry to name a kind of super-director at a certain number of public enterprises, most of them under Energy and Mines) have displeased you greatly. Is that why you met last Monday with other ministers to draw up an original list of demands to send to Premier Ulloa?

[Answer] Let us clear up a few matters. There is no requirement to distribute 80 percent of profits. The problem has already been resolved, and the enterprises in this sector have reached an agreement with the Ministry of Economics, so there are no problems.

As for the super-directors, there has undoubtedly been a certain amount of concern about this measure among boards of directors, but not on my part. I think everyone understands, however, that we need more financial discipline because of the scarcity of resources. Instead of buying high-quality soap, we will buy Pacocha soap. That is about what we are doing.

Sure, this provokes an outcry, and there is resistance. We have seen alternative formulas, and in my capacity as head of the Economics Ministry, I proposed that all interested ministers should have a meeting.

Most of the ministers participated in one way or another, by attending personally or by sending memoranda.

[Question] Fine, but what does the list of demands for Ulloa say?

[Answer] It is not a list of demands. They are operational suggestions for the implementation of the austerity decree. I think the temperature has dropped. I was certainly never greatly displeased with this. There are operational problems, but everything is manageable. In any household, when there is no money, family tensions increase. That is sort of what is happening here, but if we are aware that the causes lie outside Peru, we all have to push the car in the same direction.

[Question] You spoke in public about a fiscal deficit of 300 billion soles by the end of the year. But there are already rumors that the deficit will be much higher by December, that the goal of a deficit equal to 4.2 percent of the GDP--the basis for the loan agreements with the IMF--will be completely lost, and that inflation--nearly 30 percent by the end of the first 6 months--could attain three digits by 31 December. What is your comment?

[Answer] It is highly unlikely that inflation will accelerate. The 29 percent of the first 6 months of 1982 is less than the percentage for the same period in 1981. The large adjustments in transportation fares and other items that influence the calculation of the cost of living index will decline. This is particularly true of fuels, because we have reached a point at which we are almost able to cover our costs.

Certainly readjustments will be necessary, but they will be smaller than in the past. In other words, there is no way inflation will accelerate.

[Question] What is your prognosis for this year?

[Answer] Prognoses have to be subject to certain conditions. If the public sector deficit is held to 4 or 6 percent of the GDP, we could have an inflation rate of about 55 percent for the December-December period.

[Question] And with regard to the deficit of 300 billion and the surpassing of the 4.2 percent goal?

[Answer] We must look at the central government, whose goal, I believe, is half of that 4.2 percent of the GDP. The measures the central government is taking could hold the line at slightly over 2 percent. The rest is the enterprises, but the blame does not lie with the alleged inefficiency of the state sector, but rather with the fall in prices.

What we are concerned with is the impact of the deficit. If the Central Peruvian Mining Enterprise (CENTROMIN) has a deficit, it does not go to the Central Bank to finance it; nor does Minero-Peru or any other firm. Here the important deficit is the one that has a monetary impact, and in this regard we must concentrate on the central government, which reflects its own deficit, and the transfers it has to make to the enterprises. In the Energy and Mining sector not a cent is transferred to the enterprises; all operate on their own. Now, I don't know if this can continue with these prices, but we don't get anything from the budget. So the price of silver fell? Bad luck. The goal will have to be discussed; we'll see.

[Question] Some believe that the desire to avoid an expansion of the deficit could lead to a drastic cutback in public investment spending, and that would have a negative impact on the government's image, and on its future electoral possibilities. What do you think?

[Answer] Greater prioritization is undoubtedly necessary if there are not sufficient resources. However, most public works projects have long-term financing from abroad, so it is not necessary to cut them because their financing has no impact on the deficit.

[Question] With regard to the economic policy that has been applied since July 1980, as you yourself have said, there is a lot of criticism. Some of the critics even say that this government is similar to the last one in that it blames external factors for the crisis. Do you think mistakes have been made in the design and application of economic policy?

[Answer] The major features, with which I agree, seem correct to me. What are they? To make the public sector more efficient, which is a long-range goal; to strengthen the agriculture sector, which is being achieved willy nilly; to create a more solid financial system through interest rates that are not negative in relation to inflation; to have an exchange rate that reflects the fluctuations in domestic costs so as not to detract from our export potential; and to open up the industrial sector and national production a little to foreign competition.

In all these aspects, there could be criticism even within the government itself, but the main features are correct. Perhaps some measures have been too strong, but the direction is right.

This criticism, which many Peruvians may share because these are not easy times, is more a question of degree rather than fundamental criticism. Interest rates yes, but not so high; the return to the private sector is fine, but at a slower pace.

As for my sector, I think there is a considerable national consensus about what we have done. The opposition to the petroleum law has not exactly disappeared, but it has calmed down, the temperature is lower. On the contrary, I think the public is now asking when the next oil contract will be signed.

[Question] When will it be signed?

[Answer] I don't know yet. We have one, with Union Texas, that is about to be signed. The Elf-Aquitaine contract has been delayed until the end of the year because the firm has had problems, and has deferred its investments in a number of countries.

[Question] Returning to my earlier question, do you think then that changes are not necessary in the economic policy?

[Answer] I have not said that; I have said that a change in orientation is not necessary. Execution is another thing, and things can always be made better.

[Question] What would be your assessment of these past 2 years, as minister of energy and mines?

[Answer] A modest impulse has been provided to the oil industry; we have been able to reverse the trend that was propelling us toward importation, and on the other hand we have strengthened our exportable surplus. New legislation has been passed in the area of mining whose fruits will not be apparent for some time, not until prices improve. But two major projects were begun (Cerro Verde and Tintaya), and now we are trying to promote some others like Bayovar, which in any case will need private capital to function.

Furthermore, I think that if anything has been achieved in this ministry it is the removal of the stigma of foreign investment and private investment. In that regard, there has been a psychological progress that cannot be measured numerically. And in electricity, two major legislative initiatives have been taken to help out a troubled sector by attempting to recoup some of the losses of the past.

In conclusion, this ministry has had some modest achievements and strong support from the government, naturally, and especially from Congress. We have worked quite well with Congress, and we have received the support of all congressional leaders. That gives me great satisfaction.

[Question] To conclude, it has been said that on 28 July you will resign your post to move to Boston. It was also said a few months ago that you could be the new minister of economics. What do you have to say about that?

[Answer] Nothing has been decided, and obviously I will try to cooperate as much as possible, within my limitations. I am absolutely not going to Boston; that is a very cold, northerly place and I prefer more pleasant places from a climatic point of view. Finally, I think Dr Ulloa will remain as minister of economics, so there is no reason to think I will go over there.

[Question] You will not go to Boston because it's too cold, you won't go to Economics because Ulloa will stay on there. But you haven't made it clear whether you will continue at the head of that ministry. . .

[Answer] I am going to devote my time to sports and the flute.

[Question] Does that mean you will not be minister after the 28th?

[Answer] I don't know; I don't know yet.

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CSO: 3010/2028

TOBAGO ROW WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MUTED BUT NOT ENDED

'Unrest' in Tobago

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 82 p 1

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago should call it "quits peacefully" rather than "waste time and get on one another's nerves," according to Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly.

Pointing out that he was always against Tobago seceding from Trinidad, Mr Robinson said yesterday that Tobago and the House of Assembly was committed to peaceful change while the Central Government was "promoting unrest in Tobago."

His comments were made at a Press conference at the Holiday Inn in Port of Spain when, together with parliamentary representatives for the sister isle and members of the House of Assembly, he explained that the Assembly was rejecting the latest amendments to the Bill now before Parliament to amend the Tobago House of Assembly Act.

Mr Robinson said if the amendments together with the proposed new amendments were passed in Parliament then Government would be creating a situation leading to unrest.

He felt that Government should withdraw the amendments because "I cannot conceive of a Government deliberately creating a chaotic situation."

Mr Robinson said: "I hope they will come to realise that what they are doing will be creating a situation of uncertainty and tension leading to ineffective government service in Tobago."

"If we have to be wasting our time like this and getting on one another's nerves, then we might as well call it quits peacefully."

He said Tobago was committed to peaceful change and would do everything necessary for a peaceful resolution of the matter.

"We think it would be a tragedy if Trinidad and Tobago have to separate. It would be a tragedy for Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean."

"All my life I have been devoted to Caribbean Unity. The salvation of the Caribbean is Caribbean unity but you cannot preach brotherhood with a person who is putting a razor to your throat."

Call for Change in Constitution

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 82 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THE Democratic Action Congress wants the Trinidad and Tobago Con-

stitution changed to validate provisions in the Tobago House of Assembly

Act.

The party, which controls the Tobago House, issued a statement yesterday setting out its objections to amendments proposed in the Tobago House of Assembly Act.

Although the Government has withdrawn some of the amendments, the DAC declared that the impression will gain ground that the Assembly itself is a temporary expedient.

The full statement:

The Tobago House of Assembly Act No. 37 of 1980 entrusts the Tobago House of Assembly with a wide range of governmental functions and responsibilities.

These include — Finance, Economic Planning, programming and the development of the resources of Tobago with special emphasis on agriculture, fisheries, forestry, industrial development and tourism; the conservation and improvement of the environment; the provision and adequate infrastructure so as to facilitate the supply of water and electricity, the operation of telecommunication services and road, sea and air transport facilities; the establishment and maintenance of a system comprehensive services including the operation of educational and health facilities and the provision of training in arts and crafts. (See section 21 (1) of the Act).

SOCIAL TENSIONS

Section 21 (2) sets out with particularity a number of matters to which the Assembly is obliged by law to attend. These functions follow largely the functions recommended by the Joint Select Committee of Parliament which sat for over 18 months from May 1977 to the end of 1978.

Following a period when the government under the late Prime Minister positively refused to implement the Act giving rise to increasing social and political tensions, a ministerial delegation was appointed by the present Prime Minister consisting of Messrs. Mahabir and Donaldson who entered into discussions with the House of Assembly and arrived at a large measure of agreement on

the functions to be performed by the House of Assembly and the structure and organisation required for the discharge of these functions.

These agreements were reflected in Cabinet's decisions and in appropriations of the national parliament. The assembly's budget for 1981 was the concrete expression of these government and parliamentary decisions.

The situation proved to be of very short duration. Immediately after the general elections, members of the Assembly were astonished at the complete reversal of the policy and attitude of the government as demonstrated by the new Minister charged with the administration of Tobago.

It is this inconsistency, uncertainty and even irrelevance of government policies towards Tobago that have traditionally been the cause for serious complaint by inhabitants of the island since the union in 1898.

Thus, after 1956 there was a Ministry for Tobago Affairs held by the Prime Minister, but largely run by a Parliamentary Secretary. Next there was a Ministry for Tobago Affairs with a Minister elected and resident in Tobago. There were two such PNM Ministers — Basil Pitt and Wilbert Winchester.

In all these cases, however, real decision making in the simplest of matters still remained in Port of Spain.

The consequences were: ineffectiveness of the Minister for Tobago Affairs, continued insensitivity to Tobago's problems and needs, neglect of the development possibilities of the island and growing dissatisfaction with living conditions generally.

It was in these circumstances of growing disenchantment that the PNM was defeated in the 1976 general election losing the seats of two (2) Ministers including the then Attorney General.

REVENGE

The late Prime Minister reacted in revenge, dismantling the administration in Tobago and challenging the People of Tobago to do what they liked about it.

Tobago responded immediately by demanding Internal Self Government by a motion moved by its representatives in Parliament.

Parliament approved the motion with some slight modifications designed to achieve an overall basis of unity while according to the island a substantial measure of devolution of governmental functions. The working out of details of the arrangements gave rise to lengthy discussions in a Parliamentary Joint Select Committee in which government members predominated.

The committee finally submitted its report which was unanimous and which formed the basis of drafting instructions. A senior counsel in private practice — Mr. Lionel Seemungal — was specially selected by the late Prime Minister for the assignment.

After a further period of about 18 months and mounting unrest on the island, Mr Seemungal submitted his draft Bill which was promptly rejected by the Cabinet.

After a further period of several months government produced another draft and it was this draft, with slight amendments, which became the Act No. 37 of 1980 which, after the Assembly's elections of 1980 and the defeat of the PNM, government refused to implement giving rise to the crises referred to above.

That the government clearly understood from the beginning the implications of the Tobago House of Assembly Act is shown in the PNM manifesto for the Tobago House of Assembly Election in 1980. Among other things, the manifesto states:

"The PNM warmly congratulates Tobago on the creation of the Tobago House of Assembly. Bold in concept and imagination, the Assembly is designed to

enable the people of Tobago to manage their affairs and to participate more fully in the shaping of their destiny.

The elections to select twelve Assemblymen, who themselves will elect three Councillors, will make another significant milestone in the political and economic development of Tobago.

The elections for the new Tobago House of Assembly will also give Tobago an opportunity to play a more decisive role in the Caribbean region.

NEW POWERS

The members of the Assembly will have thrust upon them a great responsibility as they assume new powers in the formulation and implementation of policy as

- the raising and collection of revenue and the meeting of expenditures;
- economic planning, programming and development of the resources of Tobago with special emphasis on agriculture, fisheries and forestry, industrial development and tourism;
- conservation and improvement of the environment;
- provision of adequate infrastructure for the public utilities;
- establishment and maintenance of comprehensive community service.

"The people of Tobago can now aspire to even greater heights. The House of Assembly Act, the first step on the road to progressive development of self reliance and self determination, gives them the opportunity to develop Tobago as they consider fit. The people's National Movement supports the Constituency groups and the party groups in Tobago and presents the candidates whom they have selected to serve the people of Tobago in this great period of their history.

It must be seen therefore that the pattern of conduct of the government in Port of Spain towards the island of Tobago has been one of inconsistency and arbitrariness.

It is this pattern of conduct that has given rise

over the years to a deep sense of insecurity in the population of the island and the desire for control over its own affairs.

The policy pursued over the years has reduced the island's population to a state of abject dependency on Trinidad in every facet of life. Even the essentials of life in Tobago - water, electricity, food, medical supplies, air and sea transport are all controlled from Port of Spain.

FACT OF LIFE

Over the ten-year period 1971-1980, development expenditure by the government in Tobago has amounted to a pitiful \$186 million while the national figure has been over \$5 billion.

Planned expenditure on the Golden Grove Prison alone is \$292.2 million, on the Mr. Hope Medical Complex, \$533 million, on the Hall of Justice in Port of Spain \$139.6 million, on the Financial Complex in Port of Spain \$220 million, \$120 million has been thrown away on the controversial Racing Complex.

This is not to mention actual and projected investments in Point Lisas alone amounting to over \$5 billion, not to take into account PRIVATE SECTOR investment which is virtually nil in Tobago.

No island in the world with the size of Tobago or of comparable size is in this kind of situation or would tolerate it, and Tobago could not possibly be expected to do so. It is the failure of government, Ministers in Port of Spain to grasp this basic fact of life as well as their inability or unwillingness to comprehend the peculiar Tobago situation that has been leading and continues to lead to crisis after crisis in the relations between the two islands, for example

a) they do not and do not attempt to understand the pride that Tobagonians have in their environment which is regarded widely to be among the finest in the world;

SENSE OF SHAME

b) they do not understand or appreciate the love of Tobagonians for the land and the passionate belief of a large section of the population in agricultural development which they see as contributing substantially to the needs of the nation as a whole;

c) they do not understand the sense of shame that Tobagonians feel at being reduced to being mere buyers of everything produced outside while their own productive resources lie unattended and idle.

d) they do not understand the sense of insecurity the resident population feels from having all their utilities controlled from Port of Spain under conditions of deplorable inefficiency.

The recent proposed amendments to the Tobago House of Assembly Act are the latest manifestation of the inconsistency and lack of comprehension of the situation existing on the island.

Rather than keeping faith with parliament and the people of Tobago by implementing the provisions of the Tobago House of Assembly Act which had conceded even less than Tobago had originally demanded, the government is now endeavouring after the loss of the 1981 elections, to repudiate the principles enshrined in the Act and to reverse the democratic process on the island.

The current Minister in charge of administration, non-elected and non-resident, sees himself as a resurrected Minister of Tobago Affairs with a crusading mission against the elected Assembly on the island.

A proposed amendment to the Act (since withdrawn) would have made him messenger, telephone operator, and post office all rolled into one, while placing him in a position to obstruct the development programmes of the Assembly and its efforts to attend to the day to day needs of the people of the island of Tobago.

Another provision (again since withdrawn) would have had the effect of destroying the Public Service in Tobago and bringing untold hardships on hun-

dreds of persons who are now members of the Public Service apart from bringing the work of the Assembly to a halt.

As indicated, these provisions have been withdrawn as a result of unanimous opposition in Tobago and the intervention of the Public Services Association.

NEW PROVISIONS

However, the new provisions now proposed once more fail to come to grips with the real needs and peculiar situation of the island of Tobago. The proposals are a temporary Ad-hoc expedient that provide for -

a) assignment of public officers to the staff of the Assembly;

b) secondment to the Assembly for not more than five (5) years. They do not provide for any permanent staff for the Assembly.

The consequences are -

i) employees of persons working with the Assembly will not be employed by the Assembly nor will the personnel function, that is to say matters of transfer, promotion, leave, etc., be controlled by the Assembly;

ii) employment in the Assembly will be a short-term matter only and will offer no career prospects in the service of the Assembly;

iii) the impression will gain ground that the Assembly itself is a temporary expedient.

iv) opponents of the Assembly will consequently intensify their efforts to obstruct it and to render it useless.

These factors are bound to lead to a heightened sense of insecurity, to increased tensions between the two island communities and unrest among the people. The government has already signified its intention to deal with the situation by use of hundreds of policemen armed with guns.

The major objection to the amendment could be removed by validating, with the necessary majority, the existing provisions in the Act which have been deemed unconstitutional (with minor amendments); but the government refuses to do anything that will require the slightest amendment to the constitution, and this is the crux of the matter.

Amendments to the constitution will give permanence to the Assembly and security to the democratic process in Tobago. But the government in Port-of-Spain is determined to maintain a policy of political expediency in its relations with Tobago.

This, Tobago cannot possibly accept.

Government Switch on Amendments

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Jul 82 p 1

[Text]

GOVERNMENT has proposed new amendments to the Bill to amend the Tobago House of Assembly Act which would now leave the staff under the Public Services Commission.

The proposed new amendments which replace the amendments proposed last week which called for secondment of the staff to the Assembly were introduced at yesterday's meeting of the House of Representatives.

The Tobago House of Assembly, and the Public Servants had rejected the original amendment to the Act and when the amendments were made to the Bill the Assembly again rejected.

When continuation of the debate began in the House of

Representatives yesterday Rep. Kamaluddin Mohammed, Minister of Agriculture and Food Production and Leader of Government Business in the House explained that following discussions with the Tobago House of Assembly and

the Public Services Association the Attorney General would propose dropping the amendments relating to the Public Servants and leave the situation as it is in the original Bill.

GROSS MISTAKE

Rep. John Humphrey said that the people of Tobago did not want the PNM to manage their affairs, and when the Minister failed to consult the Assembly he was breaking the law.

Government, he said, by putting itself above the law, was inviting rebellion.

Rep. Humphrey said that the law required the Minister of Finance to meet the Tobago House of Assembly and he did not do that and delegated someone.

If Government continued to ignore the law, he said, then they could expect the people of Tobago to rebel.

Rep. James Ogiste (Rep Tobago East) said that non-consultation with the Assembly would be a gross mistake which would cause deterioration of relations between the Central Government and the Tobago House of Assembly.

When the amendment to the first amendments were presented, he said, the Assembly was not consulted then.

"If Government gives Tobago the sort of autonomy that Tobago needs then we will not run away from Trinidad" he said.

CLAUSES DELETED

"All we ask for," he said, "is to develop Tobago. We do not ask for a Point Lisas, all we ask for is to develop and to respect Tobago."

Rep. Ogiste said that the late Prime Minister realised that Tobago was in a backward state. All Tobago was getting were promises but "we want to be productive."

Basically the new amended Bill provides for the Minister of Finance as stated in the original Bill to be the Minister to whom responsibility for finance is assigned, and it allows for the Chief Personnel Officer to appoint, remove, transfer and exercise disciplinary control over the daily-rated workers of the Assembly and for the transfer of the former daily-rated workers of the council to the Assembly.

The amendment has deleted the clauses in the amended Bill which would have put the staff under the Statutory Authorities Services Commission and establish a new pension scheme.

Debate will continue on Friday July 30.

Robinson's Reaction

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Jul 82 p 1

[Text]

CHAIRMAN of the Tobago House of Assembly Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, has called for discussions with Central Government on "basic problems" encountered by the Assembly with Government.

Mr. Robinson said now that Government had withdrawn most of the amendments to the Tobago House of Assembly Bill, and continuation of the debate was not due until the end of the month, he expected that there would be no further legislative action by Central Government.

"It is my expectation that now that the matter has been deferred, discussions will be initiated on the basic problems which the Assembly has been encountering with Central Government and nothing further would be done by way of legislative action."

he stressed.

He added that there should be no further legislative action until this is achieved.

Mr. Robinson said that was the only way that matters affecting the Assembly and Central Government could be handled.

He declined to state whether he was in agreement with the new amended Bill which has removed the clauses dealing with staffing which were objected to by the Assembly and the Public Services Association.

However, he said, that the issue would be discussed by the Assembly.

He said that he did not think that the matters relating to Tobago should be approached in an ad hoc and piecemeal fashion.

OPPOSITION LEADERS CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT AT ULF CONGRESS

Robinson on Political Scene

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Jul 82 p 16

[Text]

MR. A.N.R. ROBINSON, Leader of the Democratic Action Congress (DAC) and Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, said on Sunday that fundamentally the problem of Trinidad and Tobago is political.

"Don't look to experts from abroad, the experts will come and they will tell you what you know, but fundamentally your problem is political," he said.

NO HOPE

And until there is political change in Trinidad there is just no hope.

Mr. Robinson was at the time addressing the fifth annual Congress of the United Labour Front, held at Rienzi Complex, Couva, attended by a packed hall.

He made the comment after relating the problems facing Tobago and the House of Assembly, alleging that the Government still wanted to show that they had the power.

He told the Congress that if they wanted to see the direction in which this country was moving in terms of the democratic process and in respect of the democratic process, "look at what is happening in Tobago."

"When you look there

what you find is this, once the Government loses an election and in this case it has lost three elections — 1976, 1980 and 1981.

"And having lost the three elections, the Government proposes to abandon the rule of law totally. So there is no more respect for the law in Tobago."

"The attitude of a Cabinet Minister is 'I am above the law' because he lost in Tobago. This is a very serious warning I bring you. If you want to see a trend here. Those of you who feel it cannot happen here, those of you who felt in the past it couldn't happen here.

LAW ABANDONED

"It is happening here. Cabinet Ministers have abandoned the law in Tobago. They are flouting the will of the people in the most scandalous fashion. And what happens in Tobago today will happen in Trinidad tomorrow if necessary measures are not taken to prevent it."

He said he happened to have special responsibility as Chairman of the DAC which has a following in different parts of the country, and a very special responsibility as Chairman of the Tobago House of

Assembly, with some degree of power.

"And the commitment was made that this institution should be permitted to work — the election pledge was made that it will be permitted by the PNM to work."

SHEER FORCE

"But the moment the PNM lost the election there are numerous instances that could be cited where they have abandoned the law and reverted to sheer force in order to seek to ensure that their will prevails in spite of the law and in spite of the democratic expression of the will of the people of Tobago."

He cited as an example the issue which blew up sometime ago — respect to the use of that historical site at Fort George.

Mr. Robinson also touched on the question of centralised power by countries in the Caribbean.

And referring to Trinidad and Tobago, he said the object here was to see that power at the centre was decentralised.

If there was no sharing of power there was no democracy, he said.

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Jul 82 p 16

[Text]

OPPOSITION Member of Parliament Winston Dookeran has lamented that the country was caught "in the forces of inertia" and the Government was looking for scapegoats.

Mr. Dookeran, member for Chaguanas, was addressing the United Labour Front's (ULF) annual congress at the Rienzi Complex, Couva, on Sunday.

He said:

"Look at the issues we debate in public and ask yourselves where we are today. We are all caught up in the forces of inertia and we begin as a society to feel sorry for ourselves which is the first stage of a national psychiatric illness."

INNER HOPE

Mr. Dookeran went on to charge that soon the economic system would be the scapegoat and that Government ministers had found scapegoats to blame for bad housing, the Government to Government contracts, the junior secondary schools and so on.

He pointed out that the present society "must have an inner hope in the quest for a new political dispensation, so as to bring about greater economic resilience and social equality."

As he saw it Prime Minister George Chambers, "as well intentioned, as indeed he may be, could not change the historical moment, if only because he derives his power from the very political institutions which brought us to this state and this national psychology of mind."

Mr. Dookeran urged that we should not feel sorry for ourselves and allow the country to perish under these conditions but "regardless" of political affiliation we must stand committed to making this beautiful land what we would like it to be.

And the ULF, MP, an economist, presented some of his prescriptions for the country's ills.

Mr. Dookeran advised the dismantling of the "populist, giveaway schemes we call distribution policy and insert in its place growth-with-distribution strategy that will ensure lasting social equality."

As regards taxation, he said that this system should not be looked at as if it were to serve, purely, the public sector.

Rather it should be viewed "in national terms so as to generate multiple inducements to the individual and societal groups in order to encourage the people to satisfy their basic needs and social goals."

Dealing with the country's economic strategy on the whole, he stated:

"Let us redefine our economic strategy so as to prevent the pitfalls that import substitution industrialisation imposed upon us in merely reinforcing the old economic structure or the resource base industrialisation which limits our level of economic attainments."

"We must now reorder our priorities, redefine our economic strategy and redirect our attempts to mobilise our people for a new horizon and to create a land of unending opportunities for all our people."

"Mr. Dookeran said that to achieve this new state "we must effectively tackle our international economic relations and monitor our changing terms of trade."

The Chaguanas MP also advised that the country had to search for new industries — enterprises that would recycle waste, activate human skills and "captivate the magic of the new technologies in the information field."

Turning to Caricom, he said that important as the Heads of Government meetings were, they "must not be seen in diplomatic niceties but rather as opportunities to advance the cause of economic resilience and social equality based on specific and transferable societal gains."

PAPER HITS GRENADA CARICOM MEMBERSHIP, PRAISES CHARLES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Jul 82 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

HOW do we face the problem of Grenada?

Will the democratically-elected leaders of the Caricom nations sit around the Summit table with Prime Minister-by-coup Maurice Bishop and conduct the business of regional integration as if all is freedom and light in the Isle of Spice?

Will they choose to accept Mr. Bishop as a genuine member of the Summit club, closing their eyes to the unrelenting dictatorship that his New Jewel Movement has imposed on the people of Grenada? We sincerely hope not.

As far as this newspaper is concerned, Mr. Bishop's revolutionary government not only presents an unacceptable anomaly in the Caricom partnership but the most serious threat to traditional constitutional rule in the region. As such, we see the status of Grenada as a challenge which Caricom heads of government cannot afford to ignore at the coming Summit without betraying the freedom-loving people who have elected them all to office.

ROUGHSHOD

We know there are some who say that the best way to handle this situation is to let Mr. Bishop and his Marxist regime do their thing in Grenada; let them ride roughshod over the rights of the people; let them maintain their political power as they seized it —

through the barrel of a gun: let them rule by fear and revolutionary decree; let them tolerate no criticism or opposition; let them keep political prisoners in jail at their own pleasure; let them reinforce their totalitarian hold on Grenada.

We do not agree with those who think this way. Neither can we see West Indian leaders steeped in the democratic tradition, holding power by the popular will, giving the government of Grenada a clean bill of health to participate in the exercise of Caribbean integration.

We do not agree, also, with those who believe that a little friendly persuasion in the councils of Caricom is all that Mr. Bishop and his colleagues need to have them conform to the democratic style of Government.

The time has come for us to demand that Mr. Bishop put his cards on the table. What are his intentions? Will his Government ever seek a mandate from the people of Grenada? If so, when? If not, well then Mr. Bishop must know that his PRG does not subscribe to the basic rules and political ethic on which all efforts at Caribbean cooperation are founded — constitutional government and the rule of law.

Mr. Bishop must join the partnership in spirit and in truth,

otherwise he must take his leave.

We are glad that there is at least one Prime Minister in the region who is not afraid to speak her mind about the illegal regime in Grenada. And we are encouraged to think that Miss Eugenia Charles will make no bones about it when she attends the Caricom Summit in October. The Dominica Prime Minister has emerged as one of the most courageous and committed leaders in the region.

The threats and vituperation that she and journalist Alistair Hughes recently provoked from the PRG are distressing evidence of the aberrated mentality that now controls those who rule the affairs of Grenada.

They are now ready to use "the full force of the revolution" against those they conceive as their enemies. But they also rule by force.

CSO: 3025/396

ASSIGNMENTS OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS ANNOUNCED

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 82 p 18

[Text]

FIFTEEN Foreign Service officers will be returning home to take up duties at headquarters (Ministry of External Affairs), according to new postings decided on by the Ministry.

A similar number of officers from headquarters will be taking up positions overseas.

The list of transfers on postings:

Ousman Ali, from Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva, to Consulate-General, Geneva.

Joan Massiah, from High Commission, London to Headquarters.

Jean George, from Headquarters, to Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva.

Harold Robertson, from Headquarters to Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva.

Deryck Murray, from Headquarters to Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York.

Manniram Rambissoon, from Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York, to Headquarters.

Carlyle Adams, from Headquarters to Consulate-General, New York.

Frank Lawrence, from Consulate-General, New York, to Headquarters.

Peter Dillon, from Headquarters to Permanent

Mission to the United Nations, Geneva.

Mohan Sieusahai, from Embassy, Brussels, to Headquarters.

Razard Ali, from Headquarters, to Embassy, Washington.

Yvette Crichlow, from Embassy, Washington, to Headquarters.

Aphzal Ackbarali, from High Commission, Kingston, to Brussels.

Malcolm Wint, from Headquarters to High Commission, Kingston.

Vilma des Vignes, from High Commission, Ottawa, to Headquarters.

Suzanne Henry, from High Commission, New Delhi, to Headquarters.

Vernon Andrews, from Headquarters to High Commission, New Delhi.

Ronald Matthews, from High Commission, Ottawa, to Headquarters.

June Drayton, from Headquarters to High Commission, Ottawa.

Kenrick Gaya, from Headquarters to High Commission, Ottawa.

Merlyne Alexander, from Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York, to Headquarters.

Jamella Khan, from Headquarters to Permanent Mission to the United Na-

tions, New York.

Beulah Cornwall, from Embassy, Washington, to Headquarters.

Myrna Granger, from Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva, to Headquarters.

Rita Forjonel, from Embassy, Brasilia, to Headquarters.

Idabell McKie, from Consulate-General, New York to Embassy, Brasilia.

Andre Guerra, from Headquarters to Consulate-General, New York.

Patricia Borel, from Embassy, Brussels, to Headquarters.

Elma Maraj, from High Commission, New Delhi, to Embassy, Brussels.

Umilta Warner, from Headquarters, to High Commission, London.

Muriel Cherris, from High Commission, London, to Embassy, Caracas.

Caswell Sealy, from Embassy, Caracas, to Headquarters.

Barbara Joseph, from Headquarters to Consulate-General, Toronto.

Janet Seanes, from Consulate-General, Toronto, to Headquarters.

Angela Thompson, from Headquarters, to Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva.

EFFORTS UNDER WAY TO BOOST SAGGING COCOA INDUSTRY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Jul 82 p 4

[Text]

THIS COUNTRY is being represented at an important meeting of the International Cocoa Organisation Council now being held in London to discuss the continuing fall in world cocoa prices.

Frank Sealey, First Secretary to the High Commission in London is looking at the country's interests at the meeting, which started last Thursday and ends on July 16.

According to Mr Hubert Waldron, Manager of the Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board in Trinidad and Tobago, cocoa prices have fallen from around \$54 a ton last year to \$40 at the present time.

A major aim of the conference will be to devise ways of stemming the fall in prices and boosting the demand for cocoa — based products like chocolate and chocolate drinks.

"Right now manufacturers are trying a lot of promotion and advertising, but a serious problem is the current world depression. It is not that people do not want cocoa-based products, but they regard items like chocolate as a luxury and cannot afford to buy," he said.

SUBSIDY REFUND

Locally efforts are continuing to boost production

up from last year's 6.4 million pounds through subsidised rehabilitation of the industry. Government gives a \$4.34 per lb guaranteed price that is higher than the price obtained on the world market, plus other subsidies, but there are still problems.

Mr Waldron admitted that the rehabilitation programme had not taken root in the way expected by the Board, and work still needed to be done. In the past few years all the available cocoa plants have not been taken up, for example.

The actual operation of the subsidies seems to be a hindrance, with farmers complaining that they have to put out money they can barely afford to raise, then wait long periods to get subsidy refunds.

Squirrels are not such a big problem in Trinidad but over in Tobago which produces around 750,000 lbs of cocoa, parrots and the cocrico are considered pests.

But by far the most intractable problem is labour, with most cocoa farmers complaining of difficulties in obtaining labour. Cocoa farms simply cannot pay the kind of salaries offered in the construction sector or in DEWD, which offers over \$60 day.

Larceny of cocoa pods from the trees has become more common, now that the very handsome price of \$4.34 a pound can be obtained.

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